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ABSTRACT

This book offers help and guidance to fathers who have been physically separated from their children by divorce, work, or other factors. It gives methods and ideas to help long-distance fathers better communicate with and stay connected to their children. The methods offered in this book include devising test-like questionnaires for children; these tests are designed to help parents get to know their children better, to encourage discussion between parents and children, and to develop and maintain a close relationship between children and their parents. Part 1 discusses the father's separation from his child, and how he came to use tests in order to bridge the communication gap. It also explores the reasoning behind the tests, and guides readers through the construction of their first "Dad's Test." A checklist and troubleshooting guide are included to assist in test construction. Part 2 consists of actual tests used by a father, and offers commentary and suggestions on what type of questions to use and avoid when designing tests. Included at the end of the book is a list of organizations dealing with children's rights and welfare, parenting, and parent rights. (AS)

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Questions *from* DAD

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A Very Cool Way to Communicate with Kids
Introduction by Dr. Susan Forward

Praise for Questions from Dad

Questions From Dad is truly outstanding. I highly recommend Dwight's method as a very effective way to develop better relationships between children and their parents. Communicating through the tests described in this book should be a win-win situation for all. P.S. The drawings are terrific!

David L. Levy, Esq., National President
Children's Rights Council, Washington D.C.

We all know someone who wants to have a better relationship with their child . . . **Questions From Dad** provides a healthy alternative to worrying and feeling helpless while trying to establish or maintain that relationship. Parents who see their children daily could learn a lot about parenting through this book as well!

Travis Ballard, Esq., President
National Congress for Men and Children, Washington D.C.

This book can help many people—not only absentee fathers. Whether their separation be due to a break in the family unit, traveling for business, being in the armed forces or in prison, **Questions From Dad** shows absent parents how they can stay in touch with their children.

Michael Bowers, M.A., Executive Director
American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy,
Washington D. C.

An innovative approach to encouraging a long distance parent-child relationship, one that any parent and child living apart from one another would find fun and rewarding.

Jennifer Isham, National President
Mothers Without Custody, Houston, Texas

Questions From Dad is a metaphor for love from dad, and Twilley's method of loving his daughter can inspire within any father that spark of creativity, caring and playfulness that will leave both him and his child with a legacy of love.

Warren Farrell, Ph.D., Author
The Myth of Male Power, and *Why Men Are the Way They Are*

Questions From Dad can help turn shallow conversations and awkward silences into productive discussions between parents and children. We commend this book as a unique how-to manual on maintaining and improving communication with children.

Dick Woods, Accredited Access Counselor and Director
Fathers for Equal Rights, Inc. and Iowa Access Enforcement Project,
Des Moines

*I believe **Questions From Dad** will become the bible of all parenting books. It is useful, functional and interactive to the point that it achieves what normally can only be achieved by a live-in parent.*

Michael Hirschensohn, Co-Founder
Equality Nationwide for Unwed Fathers, Los Angeles, California

There never can be too much positive communication between a parent and child. I believe this book is novel and creative and can greatly help effectuate a healthy dialogue.

Jeffery M. Leving, Esq., Co-author,
Illinois Joint Custody Law and Director
National Divorce Forum for Men, Chicago, Illinois

After years of witnessing the breakdown of family relations in our criminal justice system, it is most encouraging to see an effective and innovative way to rebuild those relations through communication.

Elliot Zinger, Esq., Criminal Defense Attorney
Chicago, Illinois

***Questions From Dad** provides a great way for parents who are absent from their children to build relationships with them. The book provides creative ideas and step-by-step procedures. It is easy to read and fun to use.*

Tom Williamson, President
National Coalition of Free Men, Manhasset, New York

What a wonderful idea—excellent for grandparents separated from their beloved grandchildren! Simply looking at the questions and sketches makes me smile, chuckle and get a warm comfortable feeling all over. This idea appears unique and simple, yet demonstrates poignancy and sincerity.

Ethel Dunn, National Executive Director
Grandparents United for Children's Rights, Madison, Wisconsin

*This book helps break the emotional stereotype that men don't talk. For those fathers who may not be in a position to talk to their children over the phone, they can effectively establish real communication by using **Questions From Dad**.*

Bill Harrington, National Director and President
American Fathers Coalition and Washington State Fathers Rights,
Tacoma, Washington

A fun, effective way to start, continue and build relationships with kids, even when separated by time and distance.

George R. Kelly, State Chairman and President
Concerned Fathers of Massachusetts, Springfield, Massachusetts

Within ten minutes of finishing the book, my first Grammie Wants to Know was started. I now have a fun and creative way to communicate with my grandchildren, who live three thousand miles away. Thank you from the bottom of my heart.

Sheila Sands, State Coordinator
Children's Rights Council of Massachusetts, Springfield, Massachusetts

*It is our experience that, with the changing economic climate and the concomitant strain it puts on the traditional family, parents, in many cases, do not know how to communicate with their children. **Questions From Dad** provides a safe, easy and effective vehicle for establishing the vital links that must exist between parent and child.*

Dennis Brown, Ph.D., Executive Director
The National Institute for Child Custody and Divorce Awareness, Inc.,
Lincoln Park, New Jersey

*Fathers today need all the help they can get in order to effectively communicate with their children. **Questions From Dad** plays an important role in fulfilling that need. Perhaps the greatest endorsement for the Dad's Tests comes from my six-year-old daughter, who often climbs up in my lap and asks me to read Mr. Twilley's questionnaires to her.*

Charles A. Ballard, Founder/President
National Institute for Responsible Fatherhood & Family Development,
Cleveland, Ohio

This book literally places the children first, by enhancing their ability to know their parents through creative communication. Thank you for sharing this marvelous method with the parents and children who so desperately need to know each other.

George and Lesley Wimberely, Director and President
National Association of State VOCAL Organizations,
Orangevale, California

***Questions From Dad** offers an exciting solution to the long-distance communications problem that is plaguing more and more families, and families separated by a marital breakup are but a small part of the individuals that can use this book. It is a must-read for all parents who find themselves periodically physically separated from their children.*

Ray Hart, State Association President
Fathers Rights Association of New York State, Inc., Rochester, New York

*Any suggested means of communication between an absent parent and child, whether the distance be long or short, is a welcome addition in attempting to build a bridge between parental responsibility and child well-being. **Questions From Dad** achieves this status, in what may indeed be called a unique manner.*

James I. Taylor, Past President and Legislative Liaison
Equal Rights for Fathers of New York State, Clinton, New York

*After reading **Questions From Dad** I feel like I know the author's daughter personally. The creative give and take is a heart warmer . . . This technique allows parents to get to know their children. All parents could use this technique. Children will thrive on the attention they receive and parents will learn to share more of themselves with their children.*

Ann M. Danner, M.S., President
Children's Rights Council of Massachusetts, Springfield, Massachusetts

Long distance parenting is a growing fact of life in today's society. At best, this type of parenting is trying and difficult. This book helps the long distance parent communicate in a way that is fun and interesting for both parent and child.

Eric Anderson, Nationwide Chapter Coordinator and State Coordinator
Children's Rights Coalition, Austin, Texas

Who says the left brain is so bad? This book provides a thoughtful and compassionate exploration of ways non-custodial parents can maintain contact and make a crucial difference in their children's lives, no matter what the physical distance.

Gordon Clay, Executive Director
The National Men's Resource Center, San Anselmo, California

***Questions From Dad** is a very worthwhile book for fathers to effectively communicate with their separated children . . . It was great reading and should be helpful to anyone who takes the time to read it.*

Marvin L. Chapman, Vice President
United Fathers of America, Orange, California

This is an excellent book for any non-custodial father who wishes to maintain contact with his children.

David Nowicki, National Manager
National Fathers Rights, Waukesha, Wisconsin

It is sensitive and very well done. I wish it had been available when I was separated from my kids!

Richard F. Doyle, President
Men's Rights Association, Forest Lake, Minnesota

I look forward to using this book. The ideas seem so effective and enjoyable that I can't wait to try them.

Fred Hayward, Director
Men's Rights, Inc., Sacramento, California

I got a thrill when I read—from the author's daughter—"Dad, send more tests!" I could not resist reading the complete book and learning dad's secrets!

Frank Bertels, Founder/Director
Male Liberation Foundation, Inc., Miami, Florida

Questions
from
DAD

*Dedicated to the best dad,
George William Twilley
(1926-1984)*



And to the memory of my earliest partner in song, Phil Seymour,
and these greatly missed friends:
Annie, Mollie-Twilley, Mollie, Ozzie, Dixie the Duck,
Beethoven and Beethoven, Jr., Mel, Kee-Kee and Lester.

Questions *from* DAD

A Very Cool Way to Communicate with Kids

By Dwight Twilley

Edited by Joe Klein

Introduction by Dr. Susan Forward, Ph.D.

CHARLES E. TUTTLE COMPANY, INC
BOSTON • RUTLAND, VERMONT • TOKYO

In conjunction with reading this book, know your legal rights and obligations as they pertain to your relationships with your children. As much as the author would like to see as many readers as possible utilizing the technique described in this book to improve communication with their children, he is in no way encouraging any parent to disobey any court order or statute.

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CONTENTS

Acknowledgments vii

Introduction ix

by Dr. Susan Forward, Ph.D.

PART 1: HOW AND WHY

Calling All Dads 3

The Road to the Tests 9

Looking at These Tests 23

Getting Your Feet Wet 31

Checklist and Troubleshooting Guide 45

Spinoffs and Special Guests 53

PART 2: THE TESTS

About These Tests 65

Dad and Dionne's Art Gallery 163

An Open Letter to Other Dads 167

Friends and Sympathetic Ears 169

About the Author 171

“

A very cool way
to communicate
with kids.

”

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The author would like to acknowledge the contributions and inspiration from the following people, who truly helped make this book possible.

First, my daughter Dion, because she's the best that any dad could ask for. Next, my editor, advisor and friend, Joe Klein, who saw the first "Dad's Tests" and convinced me to write this book, and saw us through the process without sustaining serious injuries! Then there's Jan Allison Rose for her love and support through endless nights of rewrites, for the use of Allison Entertainment Inc.'s office and computer system and for feeding Mow and Coco when I went off to live at Kinko's. Dion's mother, Linda, for allowing me to keep the lines of communication open and for obviously being a great mom. And, of course, my own mom, Alberta Twilley, for bawling out the parents of the kid who beamed me on the head with a rock!

The assistance of the following friends and supporters is also greatly appreciated. Jerry McCulley for his dogged encouragement, Rocky Burnette for his dadly rock and roll wisdom, ZOX for his ultra-pop visionary eye, Ciaran MacGowan for his Irish lensmanship, Robert Knight for the shot with shades, Morey Klein, Sue Rose, Wendy Gardner Moore and her sensible photocopy machine, Carrie R. Hyde, Susan, Peter and Miranda

QUESTIONS FROM DAD vii

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INTRODUCTION

by Dr. Susan Forward, Ph.D.

Half of all marriages end in divorce. Each year, over 1.2 million promises of "til death do us part" get broken and millions of adults begin the process of healing.

But what of the children? They too need to heal, and though mom and dad no longer want to spend their lives together, the children didn't make that choice. They still need to feel connected to and loved by both parents. They need to know that the end of love between mom and dad does not mean the end of love between them and mom or dad. Unfortunately, divorce in a family with children results in the physical separation of the children from one of the parents—most commonly the father. So the child, who has already experienced the loss of family life as he or she knew it, now experiences another loss—daddy doesn't live here anymore.

In the fast-paced world in which we live, staying connected to our children, and in touch with their needs, likes and dislikes, dreams and wishes, is difficult enough—even when we live under the same roof. How, then, can a dad be anything other than just a friendly

“

If you're looking
for ways
to connect with
your child, you've
come to the right
place.

”

Dionne (age 11)
with Bud and Toby.
Photo by Linda Twilley



acquaintance if he lives far away? Or if he only visits weekly or monthly?

Through *Questions from Dad*.

Dwight Twilley has done something quite remarkable. Not only has he maintained open communication with his thirteen-year old daughter Dionne, whom he has never lived with, but he has found a way to be present for her as a parent despite his physical absence.

I don't think Dwight ever realized, when he put his first Dad's Test in the mailbox years ago, that he had engineered a bridge for estranged parents and children to stay in touch, to keep love alive. That he had come up with an anchor to keep the parent-child relationship from drifting and ultimately getting lost.

Dwight's physical distance is easier to bear because of that bridge and that anchor. His Dad's Tests maintain a constant dialogue between him and his daughter. And they are *fun*—fun for Dwight to draft, fun for Dionne to get, fun for her to fill in, fun for him to get back! These tests have enabled Dwight and Dionne to know each other in ways that some children and parents who live together never do.

Dionne told me, "The questions let me know that dad was interested in things I never thought he'd be interested in—like my cat." There may be an

entire trove of special details about your child that *Questions from Dad* could dig up for you!

And I can't help believing that these tests also have allowed Dwight to get in touch with the kid inside him. He has reached way inside himself to find questions that are funny, puzzles and drawings and bits of silliness. To work, the tests need to focus the attention on the child, so Dwight needed to think of things Dionne might like and respond to. As Dionne grew and matured, so did the tests, leaving Dwight with insight into his daughter at age ten, eleven, twelve . . .

The effort Dwight put forth to communicate with Dionne is rare and very special—and thus has rewarded him with a relationship with his daughter that is similarly rare and very special.

How many fathers out there see their children once in a while as part of their custody arrangement? How many of you send presents in the mail in the hope of being remembered? How many of you go home at the end of the trip to the zoo or the mall or the baseball game with a sinking feeling in your hearts and stomachs that you don't know that little person anymore? That you have little in common, that you have nothing to say to each other, nothing to share?

If you're looking for ways to connect with your child, you've come to the right place. You can't maintain a parenting role based on "once in a while." Your own set of *Questions from Dad* can become your link to your child, your private haven, your "home" together. Once you try this book's approach, you'll wonder how you (and your child) ever did without it!

I spoke to Dionne about her dad's tests. She clearly has benefited from them. She is blossoming into adolescence with the security and self-assurance that comes from feeling accepted and loved. That is

“

How many
of you send
presents
in the mail
in the hope
of being
remembered?

”

“

Unlike a
conversation,
your tests will
stick around.

”

to both of her parents' credit. Dwight and his ex-wife Linda were able to separate from each other and still share the parenting of Dionne. The purity of Dwight's tests had a lot to do with that. He never used the tests as an investigative look into his ex-wife's life, or as a way to weasel his way back into it, or to bad-mouth anybody, or to twist truths, or in any way threaten or undermine Linda's role as primary care-giver. I cannot stress the importance of this enough. The *Questions from Dad* method which Dwight Twilley has devised is a wonderful—even magical—form of communication for parents and kids. But it is also sacrosanct. To work its magic, its unwritten rules need to be honored.

Dionne feels close to her dad. She feels comfortable sharing silly stories and drawings with him, knowing he will guard their little secrets. She feels understood. She feels loved. I wondered if she didn't sometimes feel like the tests were a chore. "It's a lot of questions," I probed. "Yes, but I look forward to getting them!" Dionne said. The most profound impact of Dwight's tests was revealed to me when Dionne told me: "The tests make it easier for me to talk to my dad when I finally get to see him. Because we're already friends."

Children often walk away from divorce not only wounded, but feeling guilty and somehow responsible for the break-up. It is important to let children know—in no uncertain terms—that the divorce was not their fault. Emotional wounds can scar children forever. The best way to help children heal is to maintain a constant, supportive world for them in which they feel cared for and loved. And the most loving thing we can do for them is to show them we genuinely care about their thoughts and feelings. Their future happiness, and their capacity to love others and be loved depends on the supportive foundation you

establish for them. The building blocks for that foundation are the thoughts and experiences you share, the little things that make you laugh together, the stories you quietly tell each other when no one else is listening.

You'll find you will grow as an individual through this process. Writing allows us the luxury of forethought and editing in a way that talking does not. Unlike a conversation, your tests will stick around, a tangible history of your communication with your child. The beauty of the permanence of the written word is often lost in a world of sound-bytes and MTV. Time will pass, and you and your child will find yourselves looking back at the tests over and over again. They will make you remember. They will make you laugh. They may even make you cry.

Children don't have the same language skills as adults. You will need to take special care to make your tests age-appropriate. Children can't always find words for what they want to say. Dwight's varied question styles provide possibilities and choices for kids who could otherwise not express themselves. Mixing in humorous question-and-answer choices reinforces the notion that this is more a game than a "test."

Keep your own child's interests in mind. If she is a budding sleuth, come up with a hidden clues mystery game. If he loves animals, cut up pictures from magazines and decorate your test with them. Dwight is great at this. He mixes funny tales with games, crossword puzzles, doodles, and other things to keep Dionne interested and connected. Remember, the process is supposed to be *fun*! Have fun with it.

You will find that you can gain deep insight into your child by the answers to his or her tests. You can also give your child deep insight into what you value

“

The tests make it easier for me to talk to my dad when I finally get to see him, because we're already friends.

”

“
*Questions from
Dad* will act as
a key to the
wonders of
childhood—it will
be a touching
journey for
both of you.

”

and believe. Think about it. What do you want to pass on to your daughter or son? What do you want him or her to know about you? How do you want to be remembered?

Dwight mixed serious questions and issues into the fun ones, thus making the serious ones more “invisible” and more likely to get an answer. Point-blank questions about boys, drugs, or grades could be deemed too direct and make your child recoil rather than respond. Be prepared to give serious responses serious consideration, however. If your child’s test reveals something you are concerned about, talk about it. Don’t just enjoy the cute, funny and light-hearted nature of these tests. Delve into the depth of feeling which some answers may disclose—and use that as a springboard for a heart-to-heart talk! The tests are not meant to replace—or be an easy way out of—visits, phone calls, letters and cards.

What the Dad’s Tests gave Dwight was insight into how to be a better parent to Dionne, a way to stay tuned into his little girl’s life as the weeks and months went by.

What the Dad’s Tests gave Dionne was love. Revealing himself through humor, puzzles and little games, Dwight showed Dionne that he had learned from her previous answers and was responsive to them. She felt connected to her dad through these tests as few children ever do.

Far more than being just fun tests, the *Questions from Dad* turned Dwight and Dionne into secret pen-pals. Through the tests, Dwight and Dionne were able to bond on many different levels. They shared stories, inside jokes, and little bits of themselves. That way, when they did get to see each other, Dwight and Dionne

Questions from Dad will act as a key to the wonders of childhood. It will be a touching journey for both of you. It will alter and affect you in ways you cannot now imagine. Open your heart wide. And let your child in!



"Bodey Don't Mind," by Dwight

1
PART

HOW AND WHY

CALLING ALL DADS

It is not the purpose of this book to address any of the nagging emotional issues such as custody battles, child support and legal disputes that so often hang like ugly clouds over families separated.

What I am trying to do is rally "long distance dads" and, for that matter, all parents behind the idea of increasing the amount and quality of communication with their kids. Whether you're mere blocks or thousands of miles from your child, the term "long distance" could apply to you if the dialogue between you and your child is limited, strained or inadequate.

That distance now separating so many children from their parents is the simple reason I emphasize the need for this exclusive dialogue. If, like me, you have found phone calls and letters lacking substance and falling short of asserting your presence in your child's life, relief is at hand!

In this book, I will present a unique and effective method which has allowed me to establish a productive and unprecedented line of communication with my child. For me, the positive nature of this simple procedure has shattered the distance barrier—forever.

Later, in more detail, I will describe this system that

“
You've got a
lot to say—and
there's much to
discover ahead.

”

QUESTIONS FROM DAD 3

my daughter and I now commonly refer to as the "Dad's Test." Call it whatever you like, but this intimate and fun questionnaire from dad is, at once, a means of communication, a source of camaraderie, and a sure-fire way to solicit answers to any question a long distance dad—or any parent—could ponder.



↑
Dionne's drawing of Dad.

I know that, while some dads enjoy calm waters, others, sometimes by virtue of their own mistakes, experience the more nightmarish side of broken marriages.

It is my hope that, even in the worst cases, the Dad's Test might slide through and bridge the gap between the bitterness of a bad dilemma and what is best for a child.

It is not my intention to instigate finger pointing between the sexes. And, while I will be harping on about how the tests should be just between you and your child, this doesn't imply that they should be used as weapons aimed to alienate others or further disrupt already shaken ground. These questionnaires, as personal in nature as they are, should not become ammunition between you and your ex-spouse. Keep the "grown up"

issues away from your quizzes! The Dad's Tests should be thought of as "magic dry cleaners," designed to "shrink miles" instead of shirts.

Naturally, whenever possible, amiable communication with your ex-spouse or the custodial guardian can reduce stress on your child and make your well-intended test more welcome as it passes through a potentially enemy household.

This test, which only demonstrates love and con-

cern for a person whom it took two people to create, may in itself plant a seed of reconciliation.

I also want to acknowledge that some dads secure custody of their children, and I'm sure that the "Mom's Test" would be equally welcome to a single-parent child.

As I am a dad, I'm not really equipped to address the nuances of the "Mom's slant," but the concept remains the same. Step-parents, grandparents, and separated siblings are also nominee quiz-creators. Some of you who have business that keeps you away from home or who are in the military may be candidates too. Even you guys behind bars could simulate your presence through the tests. What a constructive and rewarding way to pass the time!

Those of you who devote too much time to your careers might even discover a welcome recipient of the Dad's Test in your own home. Kids are always excited to find something in the mail for them. What a surprise to receive a test from Dad's work address! Slipped under the pillow, your quiz could be serious tooth-fairy competition. It's hard communicating with a teenager who has locked herself in her room. Fortunately, a Dad's Test will slide under the door. (My daughter has just reached her teens, and I'm already beginning to see shades of some of the unsettling "coming attractions.") We all hesitate to admit that we eventually have to let 'em go. But I'm counting on the Dad's Tests to keep my foot in the door as long as possible.

Dionne's Halloween



QUESTIONS FROM DAD 5

Let's face it. It's no cake walk for a distant dad. It's not easy to jump start communication that has run down—or even died—over a period of time. Rather than look for solutions, it may seem easier just to blame yourself, someone else, or run away from the problem altogether. The resulting void can leave you feeling even more guilty or ashamed. You may feel uncomfortable about the way you are perceived by others, or even think of yourself as a dysfunctional dad. Taking the “hopeless hat” off can be tough. I know. I've worn that puppy for months at a time. But, after the much needed gloom and despair and sufficient time spent cursing the sky, it's time to start thinking about another hat—the hat that you are denying your child. What would you rather see above your

Dionne's
great-
grandfather.
.....➔



kid's head—a question mark, or a crown that reads, "You can say what you want about my dad, but I know he cares about me!"

A dad who feels angry or helpless can elevate his self-esteem when he discovers that just a few hours of his time can have such a profound and positive effect on his child. A release from the discouragement of believing that there are no options could be at all of our fingertips through the Dad's Tests!

It's no secret that we dads are capable of torturing ourselves, receiving great torture and torturing others. Perhaps, now, we can take a breath and look at more redeeming horizons! You're not reading this book because you like the clever way I turn a phrase. You love your kid. Most of you were not just reckless drivers who crashed into parenthood; it was your dream. Others who swore never to have a child discovered they were more than eager to put away the power tools or switch off a football game to search for Barbie's lost slipper.

It doesn't take much more than the first time a tiny hand wraps around your finger for you to know that your child is both the future—and the past.

When you look at your child's face or study a photo, you may also see your mother, your grandfather and even unfamiliar faces that carry the wisdom of ancestors spiraling back through history. With this, it becomes clear that the importance of passing on the things you believe in to your child is equalled by how much you can learn.

You've got a lot to say—and there's much to discover ahead. It's never too late for anything that might help you bond with your child.

I'm calling on all dads to sharpen pencils, dust off typewriters, power up computers and do whatever is necessary to begin their first tests!

“

You can say what
you want about
my dad, but I
know he cares
about me!

”

I'm hoping that this book will succeed in eliminating excuses—and inspire communication. The next time you hear one of your friends ragging on about the distance between he and his child, tell him about the tests and show him some of yours. Then, tell him to shut up and sharpen his pencil!

THE ROAD TO THE TESTS

Today, so much energy is centered on the problems and affairs of us grown-ups that our children often become a secondary issue. My primary mission in writing this book is to advance the idea of the "Dad's Test"—and putting our children first. I'm not writing this book to tell you how or why I came to be a long-distance dad. It's not my intent to focus on the soap-opera aspects of broken relationships—mine included. This book isn't about divorce—I'm sure my story could be topped by almost anyone you bump into on the street. But a little background will help provide a thumb-nail sketch of the road that—for better or worse—led to the Dad's Tests.

Shortly after I graduated high school, I met a girl named Linda. We maintained a steady relationship for years, and eventually got married in our early twenties. At the time, I was still a struggling musician, knocking around the clubs in Tulsa, Oklahoma. I begrudgingly found part-time jobs to support my emerging career. The short trips I made to Memphis and Nashville for recording didn't have a significant effect on our lives. But I knew I was reaching the point where, to fulfill my

“
Dad!
send more
tests!
”

musical ambitions, I would need to commit to a more substantial journey—this time to the west coast.

Eventually, with the reluctant approval of Linda, plans for this “business trip” of undetermined length were in motion. Complete with band, bags, guitars and a rusted Olds, I was finally on my way to L.A., where I was sure success in the music business was waiting. Inevitably, like a thousand other wide-eyed kids, I found myself on the streets of Hollywood with a demo tape in my pocket. I was prepared to struggle and rough it out for as long as the few hundred bucks I had in my pocket would allow me to scrape by. It seemed like a worthwhile sacrifice for the chance to be discovered. Ironically, the struggle only amounted to a couple of weeks and a lot of cheap frozen dinners. In a strange

“Ice Captain,”
by Dwight



quirk of fate, I was offered a recording contract from Shelter Records, whose home office was in Tulsa. How bizarre! After traveling over a thousand miles, I would be signing with a label located only a few miles from my house!

Not so many months later, I had a hit record called "I'm On Fire." Linda joined me in Los Angeles. Over the next few years, I was recording, doing concert tours, television shows and getting a little lost in the show-biz fast lane. The money and celebrity were great, but there were prices to pay.

I was like a kid in a rocket ship—things were changing so fast and drastically. The first casualty was my marriage. I guess when you don't know what planet you're on, it's hard to be on someone else's.

Linda decided to move back to Tulsa. Then, the traumatic and emotionally-charged dilemma of our separation became almost surrealistic when fate stepped in and added another, even more sobering, factor to the equation: We were going to have a child.

Linda and I had drifted too far apart for a realistic chance at reconciliation, and, in the interim, I had met another woman that I was beginning to think seriously about. In spite of all this, there was never any question in Linda's mind about having the baby. It was her choice to make, and I supported her decision.

Looking back, as much as I would like to blame the failure of my marriage on all the things that were happening to me and the amount of time I was having to spend on my career, I must admit that I was just too young and irresponsible for a commitment as grown up as marriage. Likewise, I was miles away from even thinking about parenthood.

With time, the separation seemed reasonably amicable, and I think we both felt comfortable about getting on with our lives. There had been a lot of love



▲
• "Eggplant Baby"
• photo by Linda Twilley

between us for many years. Perhaps this child was meant to be the consummation of all that had been good. Linda and I recently agreed that we did it all backwards. Most people get married and have a baby. We had a baby and got divorced!

The next seven or eight months seemed like seven or eight minutes. I was in the middle of recording when I received the long distance call. A baby girl was born, and I was her father. I had been raised in a family with four brothers and no sisters. The idea that somewhere in the world there was a tiny, bald-headed female creature that might look a little like me was a mind-twisting concept.

The night she was born, I thought it was agreed that her name would be "Dion," spelled D-I-O-N. I didn't like the traditional female spelling. But somehow, it was "Dionne" that finally appeared on the birth certificate. Perhaps that was the first indication of what being a long distance dad would be like. I spell her name D-I-O-N to this day, but not for any negative reasons. I like it that when Dionne sees "Dion," she knows that dad's involved, and I kind of get a kick out of thinking it might allow her her own little alter-ego.

No absent dad can ever forget the day he receives the first photos of his child. After the required time spent confirming that ears and eyes were in their proper locations, my first impression was, "She looks like

an eggplant!" I went around for the next few days calling her "Eggplant Baby." As the weeks passed, I began to receive more photos. Soon I was forced to ask myself the question, "Am I prejudiced, or is she possibly the most beautiful child ever to grace a Polaroid?"

My recording schedule had not allowed me to visit my new-born child. I began to experience a new and uneasy feeling. Something was wrong. There was a little more than a thousand miles between the person I had been—and my new identity as a dad. It was a strange sensation to miss someone I'd never met.

Then, at a time when I thought things couldn't get any more complicated or confusing, I became entangled in a show business tradition I neither expected, nor was prepared for. There was a legal dispute involving my recording contract. Everything came to an abrupt stop. I had complete confidence in myself as an artist, but it began to become apparent that I didn't have a clue about conducting business. Truckloads of money seemed to be ending up—in other people's trucks.

With the financial strain and endless legal procedures, it was impossible for me to leave L.A.—and, more and more difficult to think of myself as a responsible adult—let alone a father. I felt helpless.

So, as a result of events that were out of my hands and problems I most likely brought upon myself, I was forced to sit by and watch month after month pass, while my daughter, so far away, was growing inch by inch, never knowing her father.

After a virtual cake-walk of lawyers, the legal has-

Daddy spells it Dion
Mommy spells it Dionne
Ozzie says meowon
Molly sings the same song
Auhee, Molly and Susan three
Spell it with a mark ♥
But Toby never learned to read
He spells it with a bark!

• "Music," by Dwight
•
•
•
•
▼



sles finally were resolved. I ended up at a new record company, EMI, and I was glad to finally be back in the studio working on a new album. That album, "Scuba Divers," would include a new song called "Dion Baby."

Now that things were back on track and "Mr. Wallet" was much happier, a release from this nagging, innate sensation of incompleteness seemed within reach! I was beginning to realize that the most important creation of my life might now just be a plane ticket away. Things had gone well in the studio, and the sessions were coming to an end. At last—the time had arrived to meet my daughter.

Just before making the trek back home to Tulsa, I felt a great sense of relief. Since Dion was born, I had felt guilty thinking that Linda may not have really understood what I had been going through, and perhaps misread my absence to mean that I didn't care about my kid. But once I told her I was coming home to see Dion, I felt she, too, was relieved to know that, although we had separated, I really did want to be a part of my daughter's life.

I was nervous when I arrived at the house. I really didn't know what to expect. I knocked, and, after a few long moments, two tiny hands emerged, tugging at the door. And there she was.

It was questionable whether or not I had ever really found true love in my life. But it became immedi-

ately obvious that I had been hopelessly seduced by a squirming angel, barely a year old, who loved to stretch my face and poke her fingers in my eyeballs and nose.

I remember, like a bozo, I paraded my kid around Tulsa, showing her off to friends, family and people who could care less! This "dad thing" wasn't such a bad deal after all. Before, it seemed like the only thing I was ever really excited about was my "new record." Now, I had my "new kid!" When I finally had to return to L.A., I knew that I would never be the same person. I had become . . . a dad.

At that moment, it finally struck me that, while Linda had always wanted a child (and I figured that eventually it might happen), I never really appreciated or understood the whole parenthood picture. I didn't grow up holding a baby doll in my arms. Instead, I was armed with toy guns, monster models and, later, guitars. When I was five years old, no one said "Dwight, would you like a little baby?" On "Father Knows Best" and "Leave It To Beaver," the dad was just there and the kids were already there. *What would Ward Cleaver have done in my situation?* I was raised at a time when boys were somewhat oblivious to the baby thing. Someone else did that! I wonder if it would be a healthier world today if little girls would have occasionally been faced with the task of gluing together Frankenstein and little boys were encouraged to learn to change Baby Big Tear's diaper.

Anyway, over the next few years, I was able to maintain a fair amount of contact with Dion. There were occasional visits and phone calls, and I'd send her postcards from across the country

ディオン・ベイビー

DION BABY

Dion you make me
Better when I was crazy
Well April it was rain it was hazy
But you were my only baby

Dion baby, oh, oh, oh, Dion baby
Well I wanna be with you
I want to be with you
I wanna be with you

Dion believe me
Nothing is ever easy
And into this life that you're leading
You're lucky you're warm
when it's freezing

Dion baby oh, oh, oh, Dion baby
One of these nights
I'm gonna feel your breath
Fingers x'd on my chest

Dion you're changing
With every moment pretending
Think of the time we'll be
spending
It could be never ending

Dion baby oh, oh, oh, Dion baby
Well I wanna be with you
I'd love to be with you
I wanna be with you

Dion baby oh, oh, oh, Dion baby!
Dion baby oh, oh, oh, Dion baby!
Dion baby oh, oh, oh, Dion baby!

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when I was on tour. On a few occasions, I was able to bring her out to L.A. for a few weeks, or visit her in Tulsa. Trips like these can be expensive, but who can put a price on having your kid next to you on Christmas morning?

Unfortunately, for long distance dads, the size of their pocket books can have a direct effect on the relationship they can sustain with their kids.

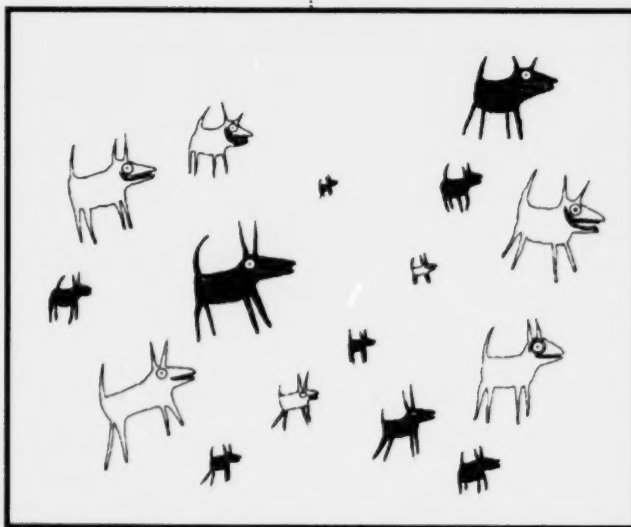
In 1986, I was excited about the release of my latest album, "Wild Dogs." My previous album, "Jungle," had been successful and yielded the hit single, "Girls." I think this was the first time Dion saw me on MTV and

knew what her dad did for a living. Things were looking up. Once again, I moved to another record label, and I even changed the name of my publishing company to Dionnio Music.

However, just a few weeks before the release of the new album, the head of my record company became the focus of an industry-wide payola scandal. The record label and, with it, "Wild Dogs,"

seemed to vanish in a puff of smoke. There would be no radio, MTV—or sales. If the problems I had before were a bad dream, this was a nightmare! I was "back in the torture boat," watching my career sink. Simultaneously, another unforeseen ordeal was surfacing.

Linda had remarried, and suddenly my daughter was calling another person "dad." So, what did that



"Wild Dogs," by Dwight

make me, "dad number one" or "dad number two"? I'm sure that there are a lot of step-dads who do a great job and are sensitive to the predicament of the child's biological father, but I still had trouble hearing my daughter calling someone else "dad." It was a very unsettling feeling. Talking to Dion on the phone became increasingly awkward. She seemed inhibited, as if someone might overhear her say the wrong thing. It made me feel even more distant.

I was really fortunate, in that I actually had no problems with Dion's step-father. Still, even though his presence in the household turned out to be relatively short, it was just hard to step aside and allow someone else to teach, discipline and assume the position of a fatherly role model to my child. But, after all, I really had no choice in the matter. This awkward predicament is an enormous weight carried almost exclusively on the shoulders of estranged fathers, although I am sure that separated mothers and grandparents experience their own unique anguish. For those who haven't experienced it, the emotions involved are impossible to describe.

Ironically, the "communication card house" continued to tilt. Since she was a baby, Dion had been close to my girlfriend, Susan. Susan is a great person and a real talent. She sang on a number of my records and was well-known as a member of the group The Cowsills. Dion and Susan would talk about "girl things" that I might otherwise never have been aware of. But when, after nearly nine years, Susan and I separated,

Dion's Birthday Poem

You were far too old
when you were seven
now I find that you're eleven.

It's hard to see my baby snake
grow up so fast when I'm away.

Our kittens try to make us famous
and if we fail, their hearts
won't blame us.

But even when you're eighty-two
your dad will still, love, love, love, you.

“
There must be a
better way to
approach this com-
munication thing.
”

yet another source of communication with Dion collapsed.

Phone calls were becoming less than rewarding as well. Trying to carry on an intimate and personal conversation with a rock video blaring in the background was a task in itself. At this point, with visits not practical either, I still wanted to, somehow, maintain my presence in Dion's life. I entered a short phase of sending Dion elaborate letters. I spent a lot of time trying to make them amusing and clever. I included numerous intricate drawings, poems and occasional surprises.

Working on the letters really felt good up until it was time to mail them. But the minute I dropped them in post box, it was like they disappeared. They were gone. The same was true at Christmas and on her birthdays. As soon as the last gift was packed and ready to be mailed, I'd start feeling depressed. That Christmas or birthday was over—for me. I rarely got to see her face when she opened her presents.

I was always thrilled to receive any letter from Dion. However, in this "Nintendo-MTV world" we live in, most pre-teens don't invest huge amounts of time writing letters. While I treasured every one, my daughter's letters proved to be of little value as far as figuring out what was really happening in her life. In one letter, I might learn two things: Yes, she got my last post card and "Everything A Dad Ever Wanted To Know—About Her Newest Video Game!"

I kept thinking there must be a better way to approach this communication thing. And what could I do that would elevate my visibility in Dion's mind when I'm half a continent away? I decided to try an experiment.

I decided to put myself in my daughter's place. I thought back to when I was about her age. I remembered how a teacher surprised my class with a test on



the first day of school. I recalled the sighs and groans that filled the classroom. But as the tests were being passed out, I began to hear giggling—and then laughter—because this test was *different*. It was fun. It asked personal questions,

like, “Who would you like for your boyfriend or girlfriend?” It was the only time I remember everyone in my class *enjoying* a test. I knew my daughter liked to read, write and draw. So, why not? I decided to create my own test, just for her. The idea was so simple, it seemed too good to be true.

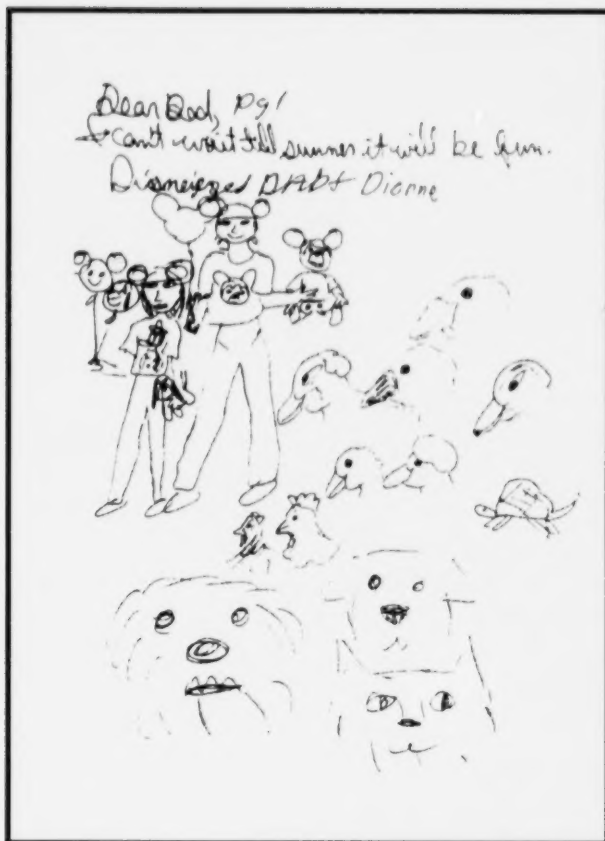
I thought it would be a fun and personal questionnaire from dad, but it really turned out to be much, much more.

Without thinking much about it, I pulled out a sheet of notebook paper and just started writing questions. I kept them simple. (Yes or no, fill in the blanks, etc.) Most of all, I tried to come up with questions about things we had in common in our personal relationship. I also included questions that I hoped she would think were funny or might spark her imagination.

I thought if I made it light and entertaining, now and then I could toss in a question about something I really wanted an answer to. I called it “The Dad’s Questions For Dion Test.” Before sealing the envelope, I had another thought. I took a second envelope, put a stamp and my address on it and slipped it in along with the test. The idea was to make it easier for Dion to get it back to me. Then, just before mailing the test, I had a startling revelation. I didn’t have that depressing “letter disappears into nowhere” feeling. This time, it was dif-

“Bitty Bacawn,”
by Dwight





Dionne's Letter

a minute, most likely to garner their child's attention and reaffirm the concept that dad *really exists*. I thought, if this "Dad's Test" idea worked, I might try another, and maybe find out what she really wanted for Christmas. I didn't have to wait very long.

In a matter of days—bang! There it was, at my door. The test—sent back and completed! I couldn't believe it. It was great! In fact, it was supercalifragilisticexpialidocious! Apparently, the test had struck a nerve with young Ms. Twilley. She seemed to instantly understand the whole concept. At this point, I knew I was on to something!

ferent. In fact, it was exciting! As I placed the test in the mail, I felt like the kid sending away for the "secret decoder ring" from the back of the cereal box!

With the holidays around the corner, I had already begun my neurotic quest to purchase every crazy toy on the planet. After all, it had been my duty to supply Dion with an endless army of Cabbage Patch Kids, dolls that did things that scared me, and a host of mind-altering Japanese gizmos.

Rusty nails in my eyes would be better than my Dion being let down at Christmas. And, God forbid, I might screw up that one annual golden opportunity when fathers are, for a

I got such a kick out of reading Dion's forthright answers! I learned much more from this single questionnaire than I had from all of her previous letters. Immediately, I envisioned how I could easily expand and improve upon the next test. A host of new questions filled my mind—things I might never have gotten around to asking her in a letter or on the phone.

At first, I was patting myself on the back over the success of the test. My "daddy" head had swollen to such proportions that it was no longer easy passing through doorways! Finally, though, I had to force myself to come down to Earth long enough to realize that my daughter was as much a part of this as I was. Wow! We were doing this *together*! Still, I took great satisfaction in knowing that *this* Christmas I *would* know exactly which Japanese gizmos to grab—and maybe even what they were!

I was soon to discover that there is something very special and magical about the world of the Dad's Tests. It's a world where it's safe to say anything you want. It's a world where make-believe is

okay. It's a world where dreams and fantasies are born. It's a world where parent and child meet on equal ground. It's a world where there's always enough time, and distance doesn't matter. It's a world without barriers. It's a perfect world.

Unlike the letters I had sent in the past, the Dad's Tests never disappear, and believe me, they're much



▲
"Me, Daddy, My Dog."
by Dionne

more than most keepsakes. They're a chronicle of a very special relationship I now have with my daughter.

Coincidentally, just days after her first completed test arrived, I received a rare phone call from Dion. I'll never forget the excitement in her voice: "Dad! Send more tests!"

LOOKING AT THESE TESTS

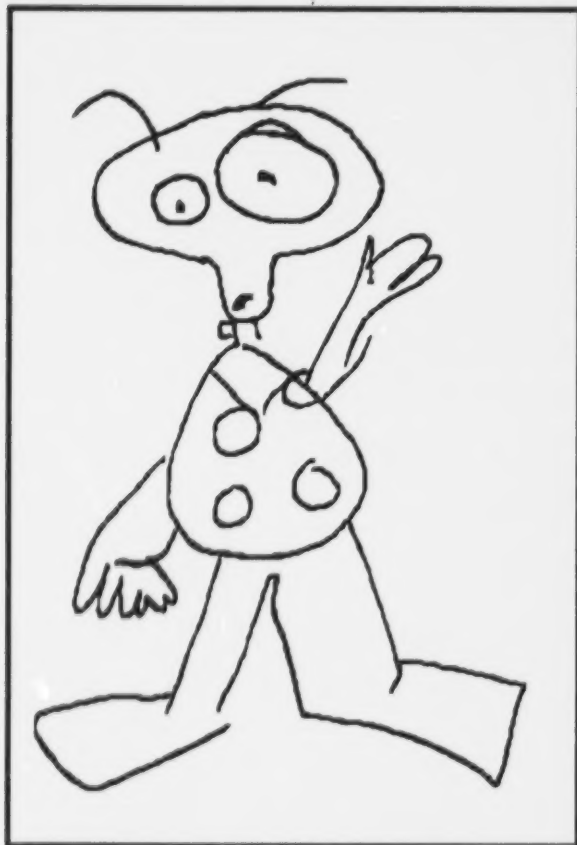
Right off the bat, I want to make one thing clear. I never thought of myself as any kind of child psychologist or expert with kids. In fact, if you totalled up all the days I've been able to spend with my daughter since she was born, I'm sure it would unfortunately fall short of a year's time. So whatever I can do to add even an hour or two to that precious year is well worth it to me. I look at these tests as "quality absentee time." The bottom line is, these questionnaires have been fun for me and fun for my daughter. When there are more than a thousand miles between you and your child—or another obstacle that may feel like the equivalent—fun is a rare and cherished commodity. This is what I hope to pass on to you.

I realize that the thought of a rock songwriter whose first hit song's lyrics were "You ain't, you ain't, you ain't got no lover" trying to write a book about parenting is, at the very least, humorous. Regardless, I will try to shed some light on this goofy idea that turned out to be a landmark event in my world as a distant dad.

Before I started writing this book, I thought it would be a good idea to go back and review all the

“
I look at
these tests
as quality
absentee
time.
”

Dionne's "An alien from Mars," from 1991.



tests I had sent to Dion. Besides, it had always been fun to pull out an old test and "relive the moment."

So I go to my closet and yank down the large cardboard box where I keep all of Dion's photos, letters and various memorabilia. Sorting through stacks of drawings and Christmas cards, I uncover a few, forgotten tests from years past. My search is periodically distracted by drawings of indescribable creatures that were supposed to be me. Finally, I believe I've located all of the "Dad's Tests."

Now here I sit, looking at these tests. As I lay them out in front of me and begin to thumb through them, a number of things are going through my mind. The worst thing is, I wish I had come up with the idea years earlier, when she first began to read and write. Fortunately, these tests have at least provided me with a unique and invaluable chronicle of my relationship with my daughter over the last few years, and the promise of much more in the years ahead. I know that when I finally pack my bags for the old folks

home, the Dad's Tests will not be left behind.

Also, I'm surprised to find nearly seventy-five pages of tests, beginning with the first, which was merely the front and back of a single sheet of notebook paper. I recall how I quickly learned that the staunch demand for longer and more challenging tests

had to be met. This called for much experimentation and imagination.

In subsequent tests, I began to add *Where's Waldo?* type drawings and ambitious dot-to-dot adventures. I kept adding spices and other ingredients to the "test recipe." The forces of supply and demand eventually dictated that one hundred questions would be the acceptable length for what constituted a *real* Dad's Test. Under a hundred questions, dad was holding out; over a hundred seemed a bit much. Hence, "The Dad's Questions For Dion Test" evolved into "100 Questions From Dad." I considered the evolution from a single sheet of notebook paper to as many as eighteen pages, complete with color-photocopy cover in a clear plastic binder, to be a milestone in "long-distance-dadness."

I think of the four or five hours spent over a couple of weeks preparing each test as a high-yield investment. However, I recall many times I'd stall out around question number seventy-five. How could I come up with twenty-five more questions that would keep her attention and have any real meaning? Somehow, though, after the required amount of "pacing and erasing," I found I could always nudge my way to the century mark, and, when I'd finish, I'd think to myself, "What was I worried about? Dad conquers another test!"

And of course, once a test was in the mail, a number of questions I wished I would have asked would instantly come to mind!

When I stand back and look at all the tests as a whole, I ask myself, "What was I trying to do?" First, I guess I was just trying to communicate with my daughter all the silly little things; subjects too trivial to con-



↑
.....
Dionne as Cleopatra,
Halloween, 1990
.....
↓



Dad on stage,
by Dionne

stitute a letter or a phone call. If there were things that we could share the same sense of humor about, that was, at least, a beginning.

The game-like environment of these recurring quizzes created a kind of "synthesized camaraderie" that would more likely be present between a parent and child in the atmosphere of day-to-day chatter under the same roof. That's one of the reasons why I like to ask her about her pets and things that surround her, and have always included recurring references to subjects that are private jokes no one else would understand. "Baby Snakes" and "The Little Man In Chinatown" have been staple themes.

My second intention was, of course, to find out what was happening in Dion's life. Occasionally, I was looking for a serious answer to a serious question, but the little things, like her favorite cookie, were just as important.

At a glance, here's a random list of things I've learned from the Dad's Tests over the years:

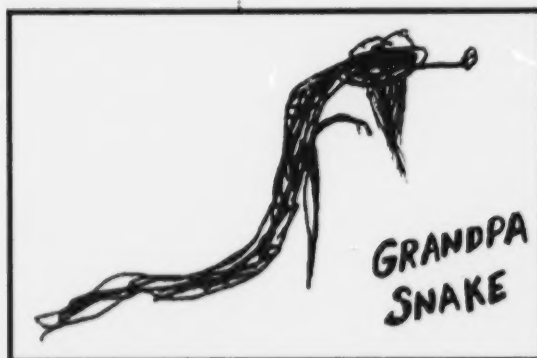
- 1: On Halloween of 1990, my daughter was Cleopatra.
- 2: How to find warps in Mario III.
- 3: My daughter knows that drugs are dangerous and stupid.
- 4: Receiving any kind of clothes for Christmas is an abomination.
- 5: Science is my daughter's favorite subject in school.
- 6: Liver should be buried in the backyard—not served for dinner!
- 7: She is very happy where she lives.
- 8: Her cat "Princess" plays a great piano!
- 9: If anyone ever hurt my daughter, she wouldn't hesitate to tell me about it.
- 10: My daughter has a great sense of humor. She is sweet, intelligent and will always be my "baby snake."

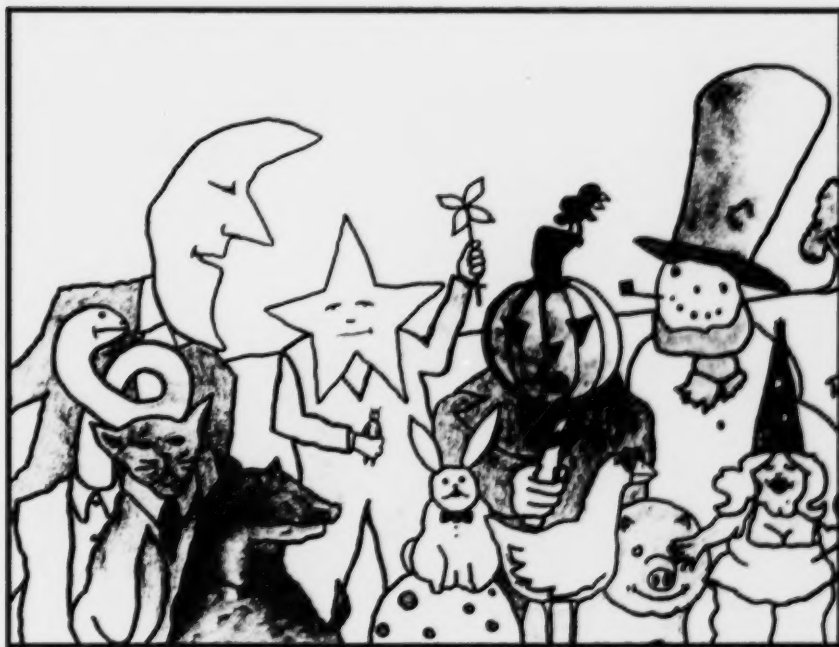
Now, here is a list of things I think Dion may have learned from the tests:

- 1: Her dad is willing to spend the time required to construct these tests for her.
- 2: Dad's cat "Mow" likes to type letters and send them to her cat, "Princess."
- 3: How to draw "old Grandpa Snake."
- 4: Dad speaks "Nintendo."
- 5: Dad can be pretty silly.
- 6: How she and her dad can communicate through their art.
- 7: Dad is concerned for her happiness.
- 8: Dad is interested in the way she looks at things.
- 9: Dad wants to be a part of her life despite the distance between us.
- 10: Her dad love, love, love, love, love, loves her.

One could argue that I could have learned about Cleopatra on Halloween through a letter or phone call. But I'm sure I never would have known how well Princess plays piano!

I know I'll have to face the fact that, sometime in the future, these questionnaires could lose





▲
 • "State Fair,"
 • by Dwight
 •

their appeal. It's hard to predict how the Dad's Tests will weather the teenage years.

Dads have a lot to compete with out there. Just being a teen automatically crowds a kid's social calendar. With shopping malls, homework, school activities, sports and, inevitably, boyfriends and girlfriends, a dad—especially a long distance dad—can end up with a pretty small piece of the pie! All in all, this can be a pretty hard pill to swallow. But, the fact is, it wasn't your child's idea to place his or her father away from home in the first place. With so many new doors waiting to be opened, forfeiting special holidays and the magic and romance of summer to spend time with the "old man" may become less and less palatable. Walking that "teenage tightrope," teetering between the security of "just being a kid" and the lure of adulthood is an adventure in itself. All this will, no doubt, be tugging away from the boring chore of writing to pop. ("What do I say to this ancient dude?")

By customizing and adjusting my tests for a more preoccupied recipient, I'm hoping they'll survive through a time when they may be more valuable than ever. Perhaps the new fast and "user-friendly" routine of these novel questionnaires may earn that ever-so-important moment of attention and verify that dad is not only alive, but eats at Burger King with Elvis! Who knows? The old Dad's Test might be a welcome relief in the midst of college exams.

Lastly, what about that awkward moment when a friend or family member inquires about your separated child? Instead of the sad scenario they might expect, dazzle them with a glance at your latest test! These are not treasures to be buried. Dion and I have no qualms about letting the world know what the Snake family looks like on Christmas day. Besides the fact that we're both really a couple of hams, I really get a kick out of showing people the quizzes. The idea of pulling out old letters or photos pales next to the epic blockbuster impact of a Dad's Test!

I'm pretty sure that my method could work for a lot of people, and, while the impact of Dad's Test idea may not change the world as we know it, I'm quite sure that thousands of cats and dogs will both improve their piano playing skills and feel less inhibited about writing letters to their feline and canine friends across the country!

GETTING YOUR FEET WET

Now that you are ready to "take the plunge," I will try to guide you through the construction of your first "Dad's Test."

It's important to remember that these tests are an ongoing experiment. You may find a different approach that I haven't even thought of. Of course, the content of your quiz will vary according to your child's age and sex, but I think children's appreciation for the attention the tests provide is universal. As soon as your child is able to read and write, he or she is a candidate for the Dad's Test. Before you begin, you may want to take a look at any letters, schoolwork or other examples of your son's or daughter's writing skills. This will help you choose words that your youngster will understand.

You may want to begin by thinking of a name for your first test. I encourage you to select a title that both relates the idea of the quiz and makes it clear that it is personalized—just between you and your child. For example, "The Dad's Test For Susan" or "25 Questions For Michael From Dad." If you feel the word "test" may be intimidating, remember, there are no rules! The "tests" have worked well for me, but you may want to

“
Keep
your first
test short,
20 to 40
questions.
”

"Complete the drawing," from Dad's Test, 1993.



call your quiz "Karen's Fun Book From Dad" or "Dad's Question Game For Craig."

I suggest that you keep your first questionnaire reasonably short—say twenty to forty inquiries. Make a rough list of any questions that you're sure you want to ask. List the names of your child's pets, friends, toys, games and any other subjects he or she can easily relate to. Use the lists to help create your questions. Once you have selected a title, you are ready for the major hurdle—the first question.

Start with very light inquiries which immediately—and clearly—demonstrate that the test is supposed to be *fun*.

1. "What is your favorite T.V. show?"
2. "What is your dog's favorite T.V. show?"

If you have any questions of a serious nature, make sure they are well-insulated by lots of silliness! Within a chain of wacky inquiries, a spontaneous answer to a serious question is more likely. (On the other hand, don't be surprised if a goofy question receives an unexpected serious response.)

As your quiz takes form, it's important that you keep it interesting. This is crucial in keeping your child's attention and can be accomplished by constantly changing question styles and adding artistic activities.

Examples of different question styles

TRUE/FALSE

You should never eat anything bigger than your own head.

True _____ False _____

MULTIPLE CHOICE

What does your room look like?

A. Neat and clean _____

B. Not too bad _____

C. Disaster area _____

YES/NO

Do you help your mom around the house?

Yes _____ No _____

YES/NO/OTHER OPTIONS

Do you like school?

Yes _____ No _____ A little _____ A lot _____

WHICH IS BEST

Which is best?

Hamburger _____ Hot Dog _____

FILL IN THE BLANK

There was a little man in _____ town.

NAME THINGS

What would be a good name for a home video for us to make? _____

SYMBOL IN THE BOX

Put a "♥" in the box if you love it.

Put a "☺" in the box if you like it.

Put a "☹" in the box if you don't like it.

Put a "X" in the box if you hate it.

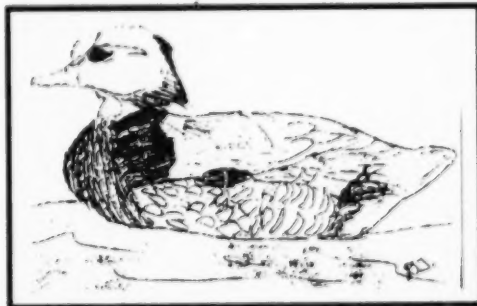
Liver [] Apple Juice [] Popcorn []

LIST

List the names of all of your pets.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

• "Duck," by Dionne



FILL-IN-THE-BLANK-STORY

There once was a _____ girl who lived in the _____ town of _____.

CHALLENGE

Write your name the best you can

Write your name the worst you can.

Adding art activities will also help add interest to your questionnaire. While you may or may not have any artistic skills yourself, it's not too hard to use a straight edge to draw a box, trace a square object or to simply write "Draw A Picture Of Your Dog." Kids love to draw, and there seems to be no limit to their imagination. To fulfill this appetite over the past three years, I have made some bizarre and wide ranging requests.

"Draw the Snake Family At Christmas"

"Draw the Worst Insect"

"Draw a Singing Fish Head"

"Draw an Alien From Mars"

"Draw the Flea Christmas Parade"

"Draw Rudolph the Red-Nosed Mallard"

“
The test
is supposed
to be fun.
”

Never in the entire realm of "dad-testology" has a single one of these challenges failed to be met and conquered, often with mind-boggling results. I find it interesting and rewarding that, even from a distance, I'm able to fuel my daughter's imagination, and then have my own outlook broadened. Now when I close my eyes and envision an alien from Mars, only Dion's unearthly illustration comes to mind.

Additional (more Earthbound) artistic requests might be:

HOUSE	MOTHER	ROOM
SCHOOL	SIBLINGS	MONSTERS
FRIENDS	RELATIVES	ANIMALS
PETS	XMAS TREE	SANTA
TOYS	FAMILY CAR	CARTOON CHARACTERS

Throughout this book, I have used samples of art that Dion and I have used to correspond with each other over the years. Dion's rendering of "Princess and Her Servants" certainly rivals my "Cat With Sunglasses." I see a more than coincidental similarity in their styles. Don't be intimidated by all of the art in my tests. Your cartoonish doodle or mindless scribbling could easily invoke a greater response from your youngster than a carefully planned out drawing. Remember: . . . "Stick People" are funny!

"Squiggles" can also be fun. It's easy for anyone to draw a couple of squiggly lines and request: "Complete the Squiggle." The results are impossible to predict. Also, try drawing heads with no faces, houses with no doors or windows and request: "Complete the Drawing."

Participating in your child's art can create an unusual camaraderie. The same is true with other forms of participation-style questions, like the "fill-in-the-blank stories." However, it is a little embarrassing when the kid's work turns out better than yours!

Try experiments. On one of my latest tests, I tried making a crossword puzzle using words and

"Cat with
Sunglasses,"
by Dwight





Stick people
are funny!
"Zorro,"
by Dwight

names that were common Dad's Test lingo. Completing the puzzle, I had learned two things:

1. I will never try to create another crossword puzzle as long as I live.

2. It *was* different, and she'll probably get a kick out of it. You may be a whiz at making puzzles. I'll stick to heads with no faces.

Of course, Dion loved the crossword puzzle, and requested more!

I'm well aware that many dads have more than one estranged child, and having more than one child may create a few obstacles and call for additional effort. Naturally, you will want to make sure that your attention is equally distributed between your children. While I can't speak from experience, I can at least suggest a few hints that might lighten the load.

- Make a photocopy of your test and send the same test to all your children at once, with personalized title pages.

- Same process as above, only completely omit a few questions, leaving the spaces blank. After copying, just add in those few questions with personalized inquiries according to age, gender, etc.

- Send a test to your eldest child. Early in the test, request: "Tell your little sister that the next test dad sends will be for her." Later in the test, ask: "Did your remeber to tell your sister that dad is sending her a test next?" Later in the test, ask: "Since you are getting to

be such a grown up boy, can you help your little sister with her dad's test when it comes?"

- Split one test in half. "Fifty Questions for Rocky and Chanti." The first 25 for your eldest, followed by a request that the test then be passed to the younger child, perhaps ending with questions the two can do together.

- Send a "smorgasbord-test." One test to be passed from child to child. Each question has multiple, personalized spaces for each child's answer.

Here's an example:

What is your favorite video game?

Phil's answer _____

Ed's answer _____

Wendy's answer _____

Hopefully, all the preceding suggestions and advice will be of some value in helping you with your first Dad's Test! Here are some additional tips to make your

.....
"The All New Dad's
..... Questions for
..... Dion Test"
.....
▼



A WITCH



A GHOST



BUD



TOBY



PEE - PEE



MARIO

“
Subjects are
as numerous
as the
problems and
achievements of
childhood.
”

early questionnaires more effective and ensure their return.

When your first quiz is completed and ready to be mailed, don't forget to include instructions. Avoid a lengthy letter that might dilute your intent here. Instead, write a simple note:

Dear Carrie,

Here is the "Dad's Test For Carrie 1994." Please answer the questions as best you can.

When you are finished, put the test in the red envelope and mail it back to me.

I hope you have fun with this test!

Love,

Dad

You probably will want to continue to include these instructions in succeeding tests until you're sure the routine has been established. If possible, a few phone calls before and after your child receives the first test will help further explain the test and, hopefully, get your child excited about the idea.

Another way that may help expedite the initial test process is using a brightly colored envelope for the return of the test. I strongly feel that the whole "Dad's Test" concept would be crippled without the all-important, self-addressed-postage-paid return envelope. The bright red envelope will be easily identifiable from your instructions. I've found it to be a simple and invaluable aid to my daughter for returning her completed test to me. 100 questions lost in the "black hole" of "toy box hell" are no good to anyone!

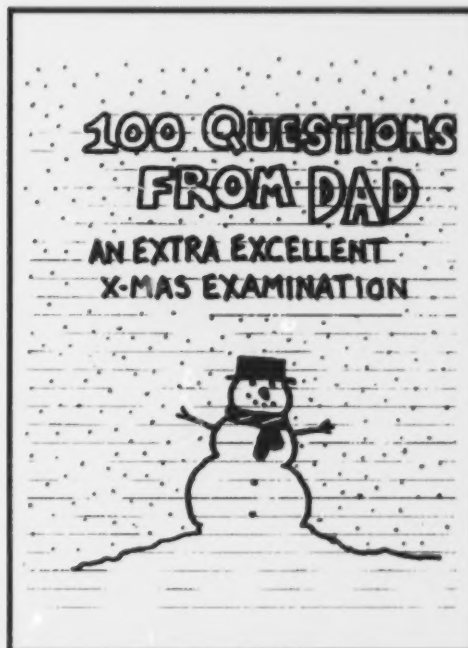
Depending on the age of your son or daughter, a small amount of participation from the custodial parent may be required in the early stages of "dad-testing." You may have accidentally used a word that your child doesn't understand or can't read. And, even with your

prepared, colored return envelope, it might require a more responsible hand to drop it in the mail box. In most cases, I would hope the custodial parent would welcome positive communication between his or her son or daughter and the separated parent, simply because it's healthy for the child to have contact with both parents.

In my case, Dion was already ten when I began sending the tests, and, fortunately, automatically locked into the process. Linda told me that, when a test would arrive, Dion would mysteriously disappear into her room. The next day the test would be mailed with nothing said to mom. On other occasions, Dion would show her the latest rendering of "The Snake Family at Christmas," or, out of the blue, make strange inquiries like "How do you spell dad's middle name?"

Initially, establishing the routine of your tests may be a little awkward for all the parties involved. Just remember to keep any explanations simple and positive. Hopefully, it will not be long before your questionnaires will be as they were intended—just between you and your child.

After subsequent tests have established the routine, you may want to embellish or expand the title to sustain interest and to focus on particular subjects. A cover page can be a nice touch. It can capture "the pupil's" attention and make your test look more "official." Write the title of your test in BIG letters on the top of a clean sheet of paper (possibly colored paper), then affix a photo or two underneath (shots of you, your child or pets are trustworthy subjects). Try a drawing. You'll be



A sample cover.

asking your kid to draw; show your son or daughter you're willing to meet them on equal ground. Zip over to the corner copy store and make a couple of color prints. Be creative. Your "Norman Rockwell Meets Salvadore Dali" cover page will give your test personality and will also be a great memento for you and your sprout.

The cover page design may be motivated by your more elaborate test title or title that addresses a specific subject. Here are some examples:

• **"The All New Dad's Test for Jan"**

• **"50 Questions from Dad—The Special Edition"**

• **"The 1994 Christmas Test for Tommy"**

This test will serve to arm you with the strategic insight to face the ever changing arsenal of G.I. Joe, video and sports paraphernalia, and, thus, help you survive the annual siege at Toys 'R Us.

• **"The Johnnie's Trip to Texas Test"**

Your child may be coming to visit you or taking some other trip (i.e. summer camp for the first time) which could be the source of some anxiety. This test may help smooth either road.

• **"Linda's 10th Birthday Test from Dad"**

What is the perfect gift? How does she feel about growing older? This test is another way of asserting your presence on her birthday from a distance.

• **"Dad's Test to Joe About Scooter"**

This test could address the loss of a friend, relative or beloved pet.

As you can see, the possibilities for tests that focus on specific subjects are as numerous as the problems and achievements of childhood.

After you get through your first couple of tests, you'll start to get a feel for what works, what doesn't work and what *really* works. When something really works, don't hesitate to repeat the same type of question or activity again and again in future tests.

Sometimes, you may be surprised by a question that receives little or no response. Remember, a youngster's entire view of life can change on an hourly basis. Wait a while, and try the same question again on a later quiz. The results may surprise you.

Remember to seek out topics that are exclusive between you and your child, as they help to create a string of reminders that you are a real father—and a *real person*.

It's understandable that your tests will grow in length. In this multi-media world, a couple of pieces of paper with questions on them may not continue to earn the same interest as what your test will likely evolve into, perhaps something like the shiny, thick booklet with the color-laserprint cover that I now use. Who knows? In a couple of years, I may have to go "hard-back!"

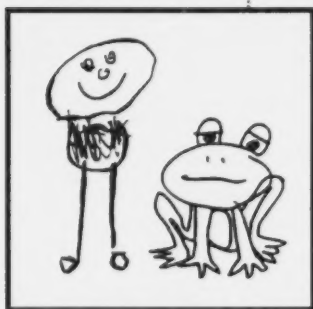
However, it's ironic how, as your child gets older, it's possible that the tests may start to get shorter, and eventually return to their original twenty to forty question length to accommodate for the shrinking time allotted us distant dads. Once again, we're back to trying to keep their attention.

Perhaps, soon, computers and other interactive devices will come to the rescue, with "digital dads" zap-



Dionne's "Pals" ↑

"Freddy the Frog
and a Friend,"
by Dionne



ping their tests across the country, spitting out wild, high-tech graphics and offering new mental challenges.

I've found that it's kind of a funny Catch-22. On the one hand, as your tests get longer, you can get tired or bored coming up with more and more questions. But, on the other hand, once you've received back the completed test, poring over the answers can be such a gas, that you end up wishing you had scrawled pages and pages more.

Somewhere along the line, I'm sure you will find yourself, as I have, nearing the hundred question mark (or whatever personal goal you've set for your test), and then experiencing that special moment when you feel you are no longer capable of rational thought, let alone coming up with any more questions. Usually, the best resolve is to simply put it away until tomorrow.

Give it a rest! Then, when you're relaxed and ready to carry on, a glance through the random list of question categories that follows might inspire an idea. For further assistance in constructing your test, consult the following chapter, "*Checklist and Troubleshooting Guide.*"

"Menagerie,"
by Dwight



100 CATEGORIES FOR DAD'S QUESTIONS

- | | | |
|------------------------------|---------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. School situations | 46. Cleanliness | 74. Phones and phone numbers |
| 2. Friends and acquaintances | 47. Doctors, dentists and shots | 75. Chores |
| 3. Social situations | 48. Glasses and braces | 76. Summer camp |
| 4. Sex and sexuality | 49. Bed wetting | 77. Nature |
| 5. Peer pressures | 50. Birth and babies | 78. The environment |
| 6. Adolescence and puberty | 51. Siblings | 79. Places visited |
| 7. Death or serious illness | 52. Safety | 80. Places to visit |
| 8. Pets/death of a pet | 53. Discipline | 81. Space travel |
| 9. Hobbies and collections | 54. Laws and rules | 82. Cars, planes and trains |
| 10. Living conditions | 55. Patriotism | 83. Gift desires |
| 11. Sleeping habits | 56. Gossip and rumors | 84. Possible careers |
| 12. Dreams and nightmares | 57. Manners | 85. Current events/news |
| 13. Food likes and dislikes | 58. Fighting and roughhousing | 86. War and famine |
| 14. Cooking | 59. Pillow fights | 87. Computers |
| 15. Sweets and snacks | 60. Food fights | 88. The weather |
| 16. Pizza | 61. Mud wrestling | 89. Slang |
| 17. Dinosaurs | 62. Money | 90. Santa and his elves |
| 18. Anything Disney | 63. Fears and insecurities | 91. Exercise |
| 19. Entertainment | 64. Depression | 92. Jokes |
| 20. Movies | 65. Boredom | 93. Complaints |
| 21. Movie stars | 66. Hostilities | 94. Art |
| 22. T.V. shows | 67. Abuse or harassment | 95. Clubs |
| 23. T.V. stars | 68. Good and evil | 96. Jumping on beds |
| 24. Music | 69. Heroes and villains | 97. Frogs |
| 25. Music stars | 70. Wealth and status | 98. Warts and pimples |
| 26. Games | 71. Racism and prejudice | 99. Spills and messes |
| 27. Cartoons | 72. Malls and shopping | 100. ... and |
| 28. Comics | 73. Fads and fashion | DAD'S TESTS! |



CHECKLIST AND TROUBLESHOOTING GUIDE

While constructing your test, take advantage of this handy checklist and guide. This list could help solve a problem, provide motivation or at least establish a direction that may afford you the same success I have enjoyed with my questionnaires.

1. I DON'T HAVE TIME FOR THIS!

Sure you do! Use a yellow legal pad. Place it in plain sight on a bedside table or some place where you like to relax. Get into a habit of adding just a few questions to your test each day. It will only take a couple of minutes of your time daily, perhaps before bed or during your lunch break. Your questions will be more well thought out if you don't feel pressured, and you'll be surprised how quickly your quiz is completed. Remember, your test can be as long—or as short—as you like.

2. WILL I ALWAYS BE WORKING ON THESE TESTS?

Hardly! Two or three good tests per year should keep you in touch with your child and supply you with plenty of information—perhaps before Christmas, dur-

“
Make sure
you keep
your tests
interesting.
”



ing the summer or in the fall. If you want to do more, great!

3. MY KID HATES TESTS!

So, don't call it one! Give your quiz a happy or exciting title. "Secret Questions For Sarah" or "Dad's Amazing Crazy Quiz Game."

4. USE A PENCIL!

You'll save a lot of time correcting an error or changing a question when it can be easily erased.

5. MAKE IT EASY TO READ

Try to print your questions using easy-to-read CAPITAL letters. Of course, avoid using words above your child's vocabulary or reading skill. Shy away from typing, if possible. It's too much like a "real" test. However, a typed test is better than no test. If you and your child are into computers, you can use a PC to construct your test. You might even



"Plane Sense,"
by Dwight



want to go "direct-to-disk" and send a "floppy-test" to your digital son or daughter! But remember, if you use a typewriter or computer, more creativity or silliness may be required to keep your test from taking on too much of an "academic" appearance. Don't forget, your test should be intimate—and *fun!*

6. MAKE IT FUN!

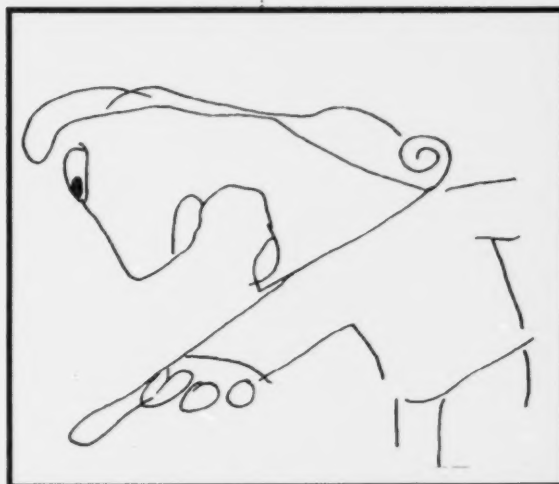
Why? So, to quote my daughter, "It's not boring, like a letter!" This is especially important if there are some serious questions you would like to get honest and uninhibited answers to. Insulate your sober inquiries with lots of lighthearted and silly exchanges. A forthright answer to a "heavy" question is more likely to surface when surrounded by queries like "DO YOU THINK CHRISTMAS TREES SHOULD BE DECORATED WITH PIZZA?"

7. WHAT IS FUN?

Things from your child's world—questions about your son or daughter's friends, pets, toys, etc. "CAN YOU FIND THE FIRST WARP IN SUPER MARIO?" "DRAW A PICTURE OF YOUR DOG READING A BOOK."

8. IMAGINATION

Make sure you have included some questions or tasks that will allow your child to use his or her imagination. "DRAW A PICTURE OF AN ALIEN FROM MARS." "HOW OLD DO YOU THINK SANTA CLAUSE IS?"



▲ Complete the squiggle, from "The All New Bigger and Better Than Ever 1991 Dad's Questions for Dionne Test: The Next Generation."



"Mom's Rules,"
by Dionne



9. HAVE CRAYON WILL TRAVEL

Don't forget the art! A Dad's Test without requests for drawings is like peanut butter without jelly! If thousands of dads ask for pictures of "The Alien From Mars," maybe we'll find out what the little bugger really looks like!

10. DOES DAD REALLY EXIST?

Or is he just "the guy who sends stuff on holidays or birthdays?" Try to think of things you have in common, such as places or experiences you have shared or things that only you and your child will remember. "WHAT WAS THE MOST FUN THING WE DID AT AT DISNEYLAND?" These questions

will remind your child that "dad" really does exist! He took you to Disneyland, remember?

11. THE REPETITION GAME

Choose a common experience, like a song you may have sung together or a story you shared. Each time you send a new test, find a different way of asking about the same experience. This can become your own "private joke" with your child. "A SPOONFUL OF SUGAR HELPS THE _____ GO DOWN." "TRUE OR FALSE: A SPOONFUL OF SALT HELPS THE MEDICINE GO DOWN."

12. WE'RE TALKIN' SHORT ATTENTION SPAN . . .

Make sure you keep your test interesting. This can be accomplished by mixing a wide variety of question styles. Use a "multiple choice" question followed by a "true or false" and then a "draw a picture in the box" request. Try to create surprises. "DID YOU THINK THE LAST QUESTION WAS STUPID?" "WRITE YOUR NAME BACKWARDS."

13. MESSAGES

Messages can be subtly placed into your questions. Perhaps there's something you'd like your youngster to know—perhaps something as simple as the fact that you miss them. "DO YOU THINK IF I DIDN'T LIVE SO FAR AWAY I WOULDN'T MISS YOU SO MUCH?"

14. DAMAGE CONTROL

I would strongly suggest you avoid questions that might draw other parties into what should be a very private dialogue between you and your child. "DO YOU HELP MOM AROUND THE HOUSE?" is okay, but "IS YOUR STEP-FATHER EVER MEAN TO YOU?" might create problems. "IS ANYONE EVER MEAN TO YOU?" is much better. In general, stay away from names. Your harmless intentions could invite interference from an unexpected source. There's always the possibility you'll receive an answer

"Nativity Scene,"
by Dionne



you're really not happy with—or even one that alarms you. But, at least, then you'll know, and can take appropriate action.

15. GETTING YOUR TEST BACK

By enclosing the *all important* postage-paid-self-addressed return envelope, you instantly limit the potential of third-party participation, which can often be negatively apathetic—or just plain negative. The pre-

prepared envelope allows your child the privacy and independence to simply answer the questions and place them in the mail without any additional adult supervision. Leaving the responsibility of postage and finding envelopes to your child—or a third party—can seriously jeopardize the completion and return of the test!



“The
Professor”
by Dwight

followed up on, repeat activities that were well received and create new questions based on some of the unexpected responses. This will give your tests continuity and keep the dialogue meaningful!

16. USE YOUR OLD TESTS

After you've made your way through a few questionnaires, take advantage of your old tests! Review the quizzes for questions to be

17. DON'T BE A TEACHER!

When you receive a completed test back from your child, avoid the temptation to correct grammar or

spelling errors! This is not what these tests are about. Such scrutiny will take away the fun and inhibit future candid and frank responses. If anything, "grade" your child's candor and imagination. Circle particularly honest or open answers and send back a copy of the test with big red "A+!"

18. EXPERIMENT

Anything goes—maybe better than you think!



"Elf and
Dog," by
Dwight

SPINOFFS AND SPECIAL GUESTS

Much like a successful television series, the Dad's Tests have created "spinoffs," like when Danny Thomas was pulled over for speeding by a then-unknown Sheriff Andy Taylor of Mayberry or when Richie Cunningham and The Fonz traded laughs with Laverne and Shirley. It's interesting how a question or subject included in a test may take on a life of its own. The nature of these spinoffs seems to be that they just appear unexpectedly. The very first spinoff that I experienced was, perhaps, the best example.

I think it was about the time I was waiting for the return of the second or third test I had sent to Dion. I was having a lot of fun thinking of the questions and waiting to see what kind of response they would yield. It was all still pretty new to me, and what I might have thought was a great question could receive a "dud" response, while an answer to a blatant, straight-forward question would have me rolling on the floor.

I remember picking up the mail and finding a parcel from Dion. Right away I felt that adrenalin rush and thought, "Aah, this must be the latest test." But then I noticed that something wasn't right. The package didn't appear to be large enough to contain the test. I opened

“
A question
in a test may
take on a life
of its own.

”

A Few ?'s for DAD.

What's the name of? Fill in
 1. My turtle - Gossling
 2. My hamster - SISTER the Hamster
 3. My Mini Dog - Bud
 4. My Large Dog - Toot
 5. My cat - Princess
 6. My Ducks - Monique + Bartholomew

24 in 1 Nicknames 4 Tobo

1. Just Yent 5. Rain
 2. Sam 6. Mocha
 3. Buddinick III Bee

This is talking about you.

My favorite board game is: Monopoly
 My favorite nintendo game is: Monopoly
 My fav. food is: Pizza
 My fav. snack is: COMBYS
 My fav. dessert is: Oreo
 My fav. animal is: CAT
 My fav. pet is: Mow
 My fav. Star is: WAYNE & GARTH
 My Fav. Movie is: WAYNE'S WORLD
 My fav. Show is: STAR TREK THE NEXT GENERATION
 My fav. hobby is: Making Tests for my Daughter



Box of CHICKENS



▲ Dionne's "A Few Questions for Dad" Test.

it, completely oblivious to the revelation I was about to experience. I couldn't believe my eyes! Never in a thousand years would I have expected what I was now holding in my hands: "A FEW QUESTIONS FOR DAD." Dion had created her own test for me to answer!

After picking my mouth up off the floor, I felt that the test idea had come full circle. It was kind of a natural evolution, but I never saw it coming.

Periodically I would try little experiments, just to see what might strike a nerve or add some new angle to the tests. Once, I sent Dion a letter explaining that my cat Mow had written to me on Christmas Eve. I enclosed "Mow's Letter" with mine, with the intention of getting her response in the test to follow.

1. MOW The KITTY. DO pLEdge to KEEp this Sacred OATH, and To the BEST of my KITTY AbiliTiEs will Fulfill all duTies set Forth in THIS AGREEMENT:

1. I Promise to TRY To SIT in Dad'S Lap EVERY Waking HOuR Of the day.
2. Should HE walk around, I WILL follow HIM to eVeRy room in the houSe.
3. if He gets TOO near THE puppy, i Will sTAnd in ANoTher room AND cry.
4. If HE laYs DOWN, I WILL lAY on his sTomAch AND KNEAd MY paws On His cHeSt and purRR.
5. When HE Goes TO Sleep, i Will PAw at his eyes, noSE And LiPs until HE lets Me unDer the covers, WHere i WILL Sleep beTweEn his LeGS.
6. if HE GETS UP duRING THE Night, I Will geT UP too, and then REPEAT the WHOLE proCeSS.
7. I vOw to hisS and to tRY To sWAt the puppy AT leAst 4 Times A dAY.
8. i PROMiSe TO aTTacK, kiLL, AND eaT All sPiDeRs AND FLiEs.
9. I will MAKE weirD sounds When i sEE BirDs ouTsiDe the WinDOW.
10. when cLeaN launDRY is placed anyWHeRe in the houSe, IT is my duTy to cOMe LaY ON it, befoRE it is folded.
11. I WILL, withOut FAIL, sPeND at LEast 30 minuTeS a dAY cleANinG, swEEpinG and cREAtinG aRTisTiC deSiGNS in my CAT BOx.
12. I will maKe sURe thAt a nuMBer of speCKS of KITTY LiTTeR are uniQueLY pLaCed throughout daD's room on A dailY baSiS.
13. I will faIThFuLly conDeMn all BALLOONS to deaTh.
14. iT IS MY joB to siT on ANY PAper OR maGaZiNe That daD would like to rEAd or WRiTe on.
15. AnyThing thAt is oPeN, thAt I can fit iNto, I will go iN.
16. WhenEveR daD is using his ViDeo caMeRa, I will tRY to bE in eVeRy sCeNe.
17. I pROMiSe neVeR to eat MY dRY food unLeSS it is mUshed in with my wet food.
18. If any sTrAnge doGS or CATs eNTER our YARd, I will waRN daD by making my tail 10 tiMes its NoRMAL siZe.
19. I will caReFuLly smELl eVeRy NEw iTem thAt is bROught iNto the houSe.
20. LastLy, I pROMiSe thAt WHEN I do something BAd, i will alWayS look REAlLY cuTe wHeN I'm doinG iT.

Yours truly,

MOW

Mow's pledge to Dad.

QUESTIONS FROM DAD 55

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

71

Dear Dion,

On Christmas eve, I couldn't find Mow. It was late at night and I was worried.

Then I thought I heard someone in the office typing. I peeked in, and there was Mow sitting at the computer, typing away.

I thought I was dreaming, but on Christmas morning, I found this letter next to my bed.

DAD

On the next test, I asked Dion the question, "IF YOUR PETS WROTE YOU A LETTER LIKE THE ONE MOW WROTE TO ME, WHAT IS ONE THING THAT TOBY (her dog) MIGHT SAY?" The five questions that followed inquired the same from her other dog, cat, turtle, hamster and ducks.

When the completed test was returned to me, I was a little disappointed. She simply answered, "I'll get him to write one," and then ditto, ditto, ditto to the other five questions. I interpreted this to mean, "Dad, this is a stupid question!"

Once again, about a week later, a thick envelope arrives at my door. To my surprise, I was inundated with pages and pages of crazy comments and promises from all of her pets. Here is a sampling of some of the things that Dion's dogs, cat, turtle, hamster and ducks had to say:

1. "I'll fish for and catch more rocks this year." (Toby)
2. "I'll try to keep track of my beloved rubber ball." (Bud—her puppy)
3. "Practice my hissing lessons once a week with Bud." (Princess—her cat)
4. "I will eat all my food before sunrise." (Samster—the hamster)

5. "I swear to eat all my salad." (Godzilla—her turtle)
6. "To quack all morning until we are fed." (Mohawk & Beethoven—spokesmen for the ducks)
7. "... And most of all, bring in birds, lizards, snakes, mice, and slimy creatures that haven't been discovered yet!" (Princess)

As a result, it is now a commonplace event for our pets to correspond between themselves.

Spinoffs can also be ideas that the tests inspire.

After so many questions asking, "What did you get for Christmas" or "did you like this or that thing that I

SHMOW TWILLEY
DAD'S ROOM
LOS ANGELES, CALIF.

Dear Princess,

My name is SchmOW Twilley. But you CAN call me MOW. I Live in LoS AngeLes, californiA with Dion'S dAd.

SOMETimes I heLP dAd with the teSts he sENds to Dion. iT'S my JoB to sIt on the pAper when he tRIes to wRIte. ALSO, I muSt ATtAck all peNCiLS!

ANyway, on ONE of the teSts Dion seNt Back to dAd, I found a dRAWing of you, so I deciDeD to wRIte you a lETter.

I AM enclosing a photo of yours truly. If you cAN send me a picture of YOU, I will pUt it up neXt to my wATer bOWL!

The WORSt thing that ever hAppened to ME occURRed when I was plAyIng. I was RuNNIng reAl fAST and JuMPed into the bAThtub. I diDn't kNOW the TuB was fuLL of wATER. It wAS like a nighTMare! Has ANything liKe this eVer hAppened to you?

I hAVE to go nOW. DAd juSt GoT out of the shOwer and I nEED to biTe hiS feeT! NeXT time, I'LL tELL you aBout thiS crAZy puPPy nameD "Carrie" thAt liVes in the hOUse. Write sOON!

Your FRiend,
MOW

◀.....
Mow's Letter

QUESTIONS FROM DAD 57

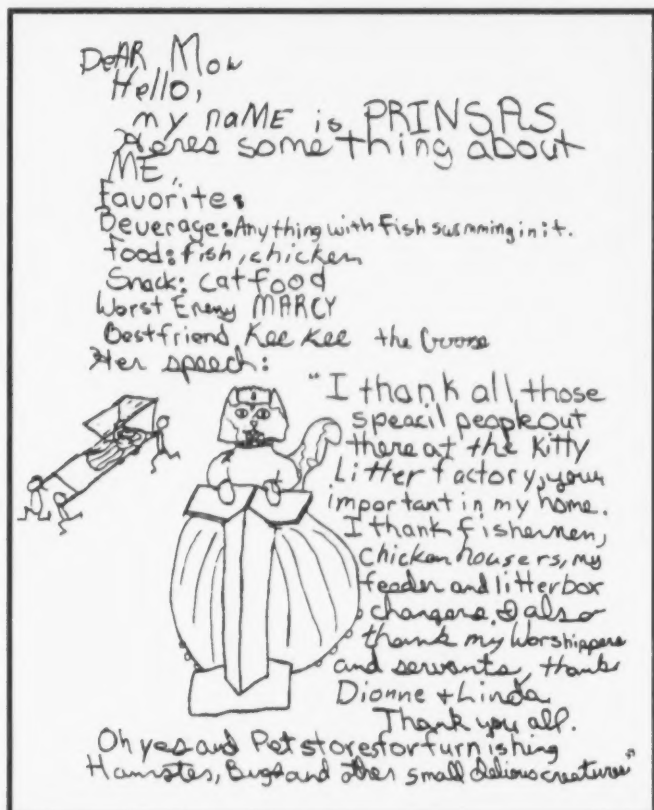
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got you for Christmas," a light bulb finally appeared over my head. I decided to videotape the whole Christmas present process.

I showed her the things that I got her and talked about why I thought she might like them. I also let her watch me wrap the gifts and pack them up to be mailed. On a subsequent test, I inquired whether or not she enjoyed my "Christmas Video." Her response was affirmative.

When the following Christmas rolled around—and Dion had her own video camera—my video was now answered by a video of Dion opening her gifts on Christmas morning. After Christmas, the videos were exchanged between us. Like the tests, it at least left us

.....▶
Princess' Speech



"Where's Mallard?"
by Dwight

from french fries to pencils "baby snakes." Unexplainable by modern science, this kooky quirk lasted for quite a while. Accordingly, the entire Snake family lives on through the tests.

Oops, I almost forgot to mention "Max-Dog." How could anyone neglect a rock n' roll dog with no legs? Max embarked on his path to fame in 1984 when the song "Max Dog" appeared on my "Jungle" album. During the promotional tour for the album, fans spontaneously began to cut the legs off stuffed animals and neatly sew them up with the intent of tossing them on stage during the concerts. Eventually, a few "Maxes" ended up in Dion's toy box. A character like "Max" is a natural for the tests.

The latest addition, "The Flea Family," has just made their debut. However, no explanation for them is possible, nor needed.

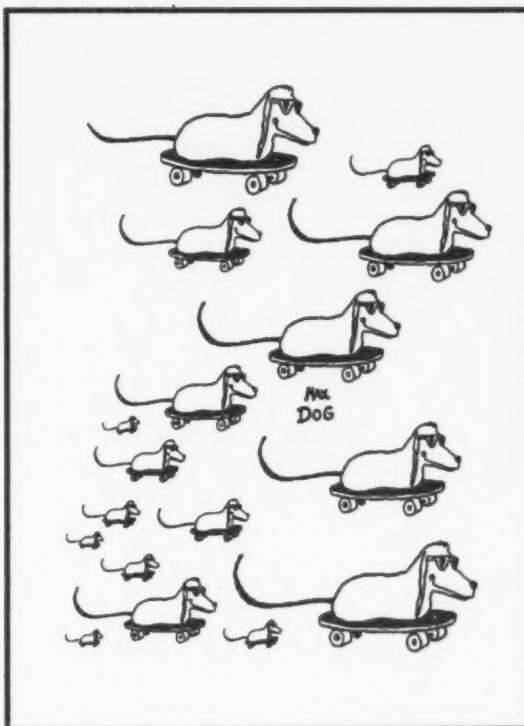
There is no way to predict what may come next. I'm sure that those of you who try my method will experience new and surprising "spinoffs" unique to the rela-



tionships the tests can create between you and your child.

I think it's important to let your child know that you are eager to participate in their fantasies just as openly as you would address the hard questions of real life.

Baby snakes are not just imaginary characters. They are real residents of the world that exist exclusively for myself and my daughter in the Dad's Tests.



↑
"Max Dog." by
Dwight

2
PART

THE TESTS

ABOUT THESE TESTS

I sent my first test to Dion when she was a little more than ten years old. The quizzes appear in chronological order, concluding with "100 Questions From Dad 1993," with Dion nearing thirteen. These time capsules represent an on-going exchange. In fact, I'm currently working on a new test, and I'm convinced it will be the best one yet!

Many of you will have the advantage of being able to start using your Dad's Tests when your child is much younger than mine was. Translating a seven year old's "chicken scratch" will most likely be more difficult than the task of "decoding" an answer from an eleven year old. You may want to customize your tests accordingly. Leaving a much bigger space for your seven year old's answer may raise your percentage of comprehension.

While my tests have been cleaned up a little in places to make them more legible, I did want to prepare you for the challenge that may lie in deciphering your child's answers. Answers may be creatively scrawled out over other questions and responses. Words that might be spelled correctly in school are embellished or garbled in a jumbled frenzy. But, by design, all should be fair in the "no-pressure" environment of the test!

With teens, you may want to "streamline" your test to improve its capability of competing with dances, dates and sports.

When prospecting through the hieroglyphic maze of symbols and illustrations, sometimes the true meaning of your child's answer may be overlooked. More than once, I have casually glanced through a test from year's past, and discovered a fact or some subtle humor only Holmes himself would have caught at the time. Perhaps, in the years to come, even more camouflaged messages may appear. Indubitably, a tantalizing mystery!

Of course, the tests are not substitutes for visits, letters or phone calls. Instead, they are a whole new dimension of communication, providing an entirely different level of interaction. Ultimately, this methodology may have a positive impact on the other, more traditional means of communicating.

Many of you may be able to relate to this scenario: I miss my daughter. I just want to hear her voice. Instinctively, I reach for the phone. After the usual "how are you, how is school" queries, I suddenly discover that, at the moment, I really don't have anything interesting to talk about.

I'm sure my daughter is perplexed about why dad is urgently calling her long distance to ask how she is doing in school. But, with a copy of the latest completed test nearby, I am able to quickly refer to her clever spin on The Big Green Rat from Outer Space, saving myself the embarrassment of a temporary mental shutdown.

The tests provides a wealth of subjects for discussion. Chatting about Dion's drawings and answers not only provides fuel for future questions, but also sets the stage for a continuing and meaningful dialogue.

However, you may discover that too much discussion with your child about his or her answers may disturb the safe shelter the tests provide. I've found that

these questionnaires create a world of their own. Part of the magic of this world is the way that thoughts and ideas can be exchanged without a spoken word.

In the end, how you decide to act on what you've learned about yourself and your will be your decision. Perhaps there'll be much to do—dissecting the answers, analyzing the artwork, and discussing the “red flags.” But it's also possible that there is nothing to be done, except to cherish and nurture the bond between you and your child, enhanced within the playful realm of the Dad's Tests. In short, it's the *fun* you share that may be the most important thing.

THE DAD'S QUESTIONS FOR DION TEST

Here it is, the test that started it all!
I have to chuckle when I look at this test today.
..... I recall how excited I was about it at the time,
but, compared to the "ultra-mod" grandeur of my current questionnaires, it seems so awkward and primitive. Still, it was a successful experiment, and I can see that I was locking into a process.

I also notice that I completely omitted question number 29. I wonder what that question might have been? Perhaps, on a future test, I should include two questions numbered 29 to make up for the slight!

All in all, I don't think it was really what I learned from this first test that was important. It was the rapport it initiated that was the magic for me!

However, without the test, I might never have been aware about her almost-spiritual reverence for pizza!

QUESTIONS, QUIRKS AND COMMENTS

QUESTION 10 "*How is your Mom?*"

A question like this might cause problems. Steer away from queries about other grown ups, especially parents. While your intentions might be innocent, they

may be misunderstood by your child or the third party the question relates to.

QUESTION 14 *"Can you think of any new thing we could become famous for?"*

This question was based on another one of those on-going jokes between Dion and me. In the past, I had sent her letters in which I would ask her about silly things that we could get famous for. Her answer, *"Teach our dogs and cats to bark and meow Xmas songs,"* I thought was clever, and, who knows, might have worked!

QUESTION 27 *"What is your favorite animal?"*

This was really just a "filler" question. I expected her to just say "dog" or "cat." Her answer, *"Every animal,"* I thought, was very touching and really said something about my daughter as a person.

QUESTION 36 *"Do you know what you want to be when you grow up?"*

Her answer, *"A good-paid person,"* makes sense to me!

THE DAD'S QUESTIONS FOR DION TEST

OCT 1990

- ① HOW ARE YOU?
NOT SO GOOD _____ OK _____ FINE _____ GREAT ☒
- ② DID YOU GET MY POST CARDS?
YES ☒ NO _____
- ③ DID YOU GET ANY POST CARDS FROM SUSAN?
YES ☒ NO _____
- ④ HOW WAS YOUR VACATION?
NOT FUN _____ SO-SO _____ OK _____ FUN _____ GREAT ☒
- ⑤ HAVE YOU HAD ANY THUNDER STORMS SINCE I WAS THERE?
YES _____ NO ☒
- ⑥ IF ANSWER WAS YES, WHAT WERE THEY LIKE?
NO BIG DEAL _____ FUN _____ SCARY _____ MAY COOL _____
- ⑦ HOW IS TOBY?
FINE ☒ DIRTY ☒ CRAZY _____ FINE, CRAZY AND DIRTY ☒
- ⑧ HOW IS PEE-PEE?
SWEET _____ CRAZY _____ PURRRRR-FECT ☒
- ⑨ HOW DO YOU LIKE SCHOOL?
NOT MUCH _____ NOT AT ALL _____ IT'S OK ☒ LOVE IT ☒ WHA YOU LIKED THERE
- ⑩ HOW IS YOUR MOM?
GOOD _____ TIRED _____ GOOD AND TIRED ☒ WONDERFUL AS ALWAYS _____
- ⑪ DO YOU STILL HAVE YOUR TURTLE?
YES _____ NO ☒ RANAWAY ☒ SET FREE _____ LOST _____
- ⑫ HOW FAR CAN YOU GET IN MARIO I?
WORLD? #8-4 SAVE PRINCESS NO
- ⑬ WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO BE ON HALLOWEEN?
DON'T KNOW YET _____ OR Kikaratsu
- ⑭ CAN YOU THINK OF ANY NEW THINGS WE COULD BECOME FAMOUS FOR?
NO _____ OR TEACH ARE DOGS & CATS TO BARK &
- ⑮ HAVE YOU DONE ANY NEW DRAWINGS?
new to Christmas songs
YES ☒ NO _____
- ⑯ IF ANSWER IS YES, WILL YOU SEND ME ONE?
YES ☒ NO _____

QUESTIONS FROM DAD 71

①7 ARE THERE ANY NEW PHOTOS OF YOU OR YOUR PETS?

YES ~~X~~ NO

①8 IF ANSWER IS YES, CAN YOU SEND ME ONE?

YES ~~X~~ NO

①9 DOES YOUR DAD LOVE YOU?

YES ~~X~~ YES ☺ YES ~~100%~~

②0 WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE FOOD?

Pizza

②1 FAVORITE SNACK?

Pizza

②2 FAVORITE DRINK?

Pepsi ~~What is an O.P.~~

②3 FAVORITE COLOR?

Pink

②4 WHO IS YOUR BEST FRIEND?

Jessica CREWE

②5 FAVORITE TV OR MOVIE STAR?

Don't know

②6 FAVORITE SINGER?

Don't know DAD

②7 FAVORITE ANIMAL?

Every animal

②8 FAVORITE TOY?

TV
Kit Kat

③0 HOW TALL ARE YOU?

REAL TALL _____ NOT VERY _____ Don't know ~~X~~ OR _____

③1 DO YOU KNOW WHAT YOU WANT FOR X-MAS?

NO _____ Haven't thought about it _____ OR YES

③2 WHAT IS THE FUNNIEST WORD YOU KNOW? alag

③3 WHAT DO YOU HATE? peewee hermes strawberry short

③4 THERE WAS A LITTLE MAN IN CHINA TOWN. WHAT'S THE NEXT LINE?

He was a little man indeed

③5 WHICH DO YOU LIKE BEST?

NIGHTTIME _____ DAYTIME X

③6 DO YOU KNOW WHAT YOU WANT TO BE WHEN YOU GROW UP?

NOT SURE ~~X~~ OR good payed person

③7 PLEASE WRITE YOUR NAME THE BEST YOU CAN.....

Dionne X

THE ALL NEW DAD'S QUESTIONS FOR DION TEST PART II

After the triumphant response to the first test, I was inspired to press ahead with great fortitude. Even the title demonstrated my energized conviction.

This mighty effort soared to a whopping 42 questions. This time I boldly included a number of boxes for drawings. To this day, I consider the drawings for Question 34 priceless treasures.

Since the very existence of Santa was falling into doubt, letters to the North Pole became a diminished priority. Questions 1 and 2 allowed me to swoop in on "Go-Go My Walking Pup" and "Baby Alive" with pinpoint accuracy, while cautiously avoiding "Liver" or "Dead Bugs," thanks to question 4.

QUESTIONS, QUIRKS AND COMMENTS

QUESTIONS 13 through 16 After I bought Dion her first Nintendo system, whenever she would see me, she wanted me to play video games with her. After a while, she got me hooked. By answering my questions and drawing a diagram, she was able to show me how to

find the Warps in Mario 3. Quite a "long distance achievement, don't you think?

QUESTION 22 What a relief! I don't have to worry about boys—yet.

QUESTION 29 As I begin to establish my tradition of recurring themes, I once again inquired, *"Is there anything we could do on Halloween that we can become famous for?"* Her answer, *"Go with our animals and make people think they were kids in Halloween costumes,"* assured me that a bonanza of imagination was just waiting to be tapped.

QUESTION 32 When I asked, *"What is your favorite subject in school?"* I was startled by her answer, *"science."* It instantly conjured up visions of microscopes and test tubes as future birthday gifts.

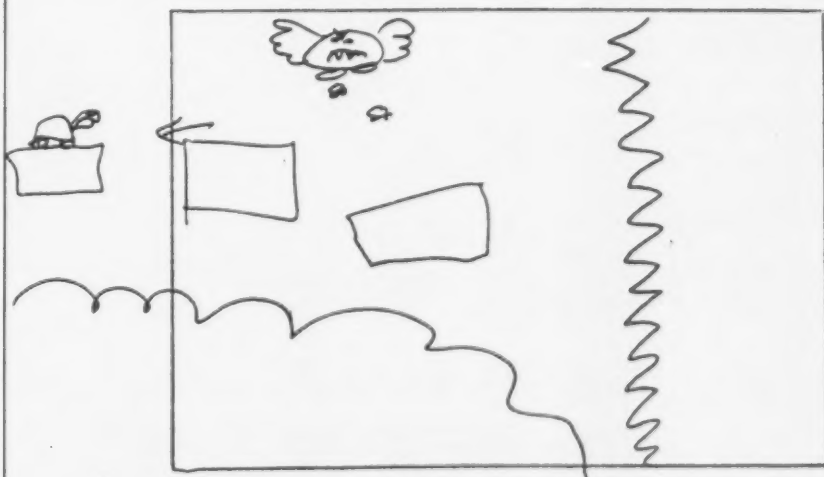
QUESTION 36 This question falls into the "Ask a stupid question, get a stupid answer" category and provided me with my first lesson from Dion in "Dad-testing." When I'm asking for three things she has learned to cook, an answer like *"Breakfast, lunch and dinner"* should only be expected.

THE ALL NEW DAD'S QUESTIONS FOR DION TEST PART 2

- ① NAME two things you really, really, really..... really WANT FOR X-MAS
 - ① Giant trampoline
 - ② GOGO puppy
- ② NAME two things you really WANT FOR X-MAS
 - ① Super MARIO 2
 - ② BABY ALIVE
- ③ NAME two things you KINDA WANT FOR X-MAS
 - ① N.W.K. dolls even though I hate the N.K.Q.T.B.
 - ② game boy, turtle
- ④ NAME two things you don't WANT FOR X-MAS
 - ① Live or dead bug
 - ② Liver
- ⑤ HAVE YOU SEEN THE NEW GIFTED CHILDREN'S CATALOGUE?
YES _____ NO ☒ ~~YES~~
- ⑥ IF YOUR ANSWER WAS YES, DID YOU SEE ANYTHING YOU LIKE THAT YOU DIDN'T LIST ABOVE?
YES _____ NO _____ IF YES, WHAT? _____
- ⑦ WHAT DOES TOBY WANT FOR X-MAS?
DON'T KNOW _____ DIDN'T ASK _____ OR treats
- ⑧ WHAT DOES BUD WANT FOR X-MAS?
DON'T KNOW _____ HE DIDN'T SAY _____ OR treats and dog
- ⑨ WHAT DOES ^{closes} PEE-PEE WANT FOR X-MAS?
DON'T KNOW _____ PRE-FURRRRS NOT TO SAY _____ OR treats and toys
- ⑩ DO YOU THINK X-MAS TREES SHOULD BE DECORATED WITH PIECES OF PIZZA?
YES _____ NO ☒ ~~YES~~ ALWAYS _____
- ⑪ DO YOU THINK THE LAST QUESTION WAS STUPID?
YES ☒ ~~YES~~ NO _____

QUESTIONS FROM DAD 75

- ⑫ HOW MANY HOURS HAVE YOU PLAYED MARIO III SINCE YOU GOT IT? ☒
 NOT MANY _____ QUITE A FEW _____ MILLIONS _____ ZILLIONS _____
- ⑬ IN MARIO III CAN YOU TELL ME WHICH WORLD OR WORLDS I CAN FIND WARPS IN
 WORLD ① GRASS LAND ☒ WORLD ② DESERT LAND ☒
 WORLD ③ WATER LAND _____ WORLD ④ GIANT LAND _____
 WORLD ⑤ SKY LAND _____ WORLD ⑥ ICE LAND _____
 WORLD ⑦ PIPELAND _____ WORLD ⑧ DARK LAND _____ NOT SURE _____
- ⑭ IF THE FIRST WARP IS IN WORLD 1 WHAT PART ON THE MAP IS IT?
 PART ① _____ PART ② _____ PART ③ ☒ PART ④ _____ PART ⑤ _____ PART ⑥ _____
 PART ⑦ _____ PART ⑧ _____ PART ⑨ _____ PART ⑩ _____ NOT SURE _____
- ⑮ IF THE FIRST WARP IS IN WORLD 1 PART 3, IS IT AT
 THE BEGINNING _____ IN THE MIDDLE _____ OR AT THE END ☒ NOT SURE _____
- ⑯ CAN YOU DRAW A PICTURE OF WHERE I SHOULD BE TO FIND THE WARP?



- ⑰ CAN YOU TELL ME ANYTHING ELSE TO HELP ME FIND THE WARPS?
 YES _____ NO ☒ OR _____

- (18) ARE YOU SICK OF ANSWERING QUESTIONS ABOUT MARIO AND THE WARPS?
YES _____ NO ☒ CAN'T ANSWER BECAUSE YOU'RE SICK OF ANSWERING-
QUESTIONS ABOUT MARIO AND THE WARPS _____
- (19) ON YOUR LAST TEST YOU SAID YOUR TURTLE RANAWAY WHERE DO YOU THINK HE WENT?
JUST OFF TO HANG OUT WITH OTHER TURTLES ☒
TO HOLLYWOOD TO BECOME A MOVIE STAR _____
TO SCHOOL TO LEARN TO BE A BRAIN SURGEON _____ OTHER _____
- (20) WHICH DO YOU LIKE BEST?
SUMMER _____ SPRING _____ WINTER ☒ FALL ☒
- (21) WOULD YOU EVER WANT TO GO INTO OUTER SPACE OR TO ANOTHER PLANET?
YES ☒ NO _____ DON'T KNOW _____ YOU ALREADY ARE _____
- (22) WHAT DO YOU THINK ABOUT BOYS
KINDA' LIKE THEM _____ LIKE THEM _____ LOVE THEM _____ HATE THEM ☒ DON'T KNOW _____
- (23) WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE GAME? MARIO 3, Life, Monopoly, Clue, Mario 2
Mario 1.
- (24) WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE TV SHOW? Don't Know
- (25) IF YOU HAD TO BE TURNED INTO AN ANIMAL, WHAT WOULD YOU BE? Fee-fee
- (26) WHAT IS THE BEST THING ABOUT DISNEYLAND? She's spoiled and still spoiling me.
Rides and food everything
- (27) SANTA CLAUS' FAVORITE X-MAS WAS THE best ONE OF ALL.
- (28) WHAT CAT STARS IN THE COMMERCIAL FOR WHO'S THAT KITTY CAT FOOD? Au-lee
- (29) IS THERE ANYTHING WE COULD DO ON HALLOWEEN THAT WE COULD BECOME FAMOUS FOR?
Go with our animals and make people think
the were kids in Halloween costumes.
- (30) DO YOU THINK YOU WOULD LIKE PIZZA ICE CREAM
YES _____ NO ☒ MAYBE _____
- (31) WHY DID THE BABY SNAKE GO TO SCHOOL?
DON'T KNOW ☒
TO LEARN TO READ SLITHER-A-TURE _____
TO STUDY HISSSSSTORY ☒
- (32) WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE SUBJECT IN SCHOOL? Science
- (33) DO YOU LIKE THE DAD'S QUESTIONS FOR DION TESTS YES ☒ NO _____

QUESTIONS FROM DAD 77

34 DRAW THE FOLLOWING :



A WITCH



A GHOST



BUD



TOBY



PEE-PEE



MARIO

35 DO YOU LIKE COMIC BOOKS ?

YES ☒ NO ☐ IF YES, WHICH ONES ? Archie Heathcliff

36 HAVE YOU LEARNED TO COOK ANYTHING ?

YES ☒ NO ☐ IF YES, WHAT ? Breakfast Dinner Lunch

37 CAN YOU SEND ME ANY NEW PHOTOS

YES ☒ NO ☐

40 ARE YOU GLAD THIS IS THE LAST QUESTION ?

YES ☐ NO ☒

41 WRITE YOUR NAME THE WORST THAT YOU CAN

I wrote it on my Left Hand.

Lillian

42 I LOVE, LOVE, LOVE, LOVE, LOVE, LOVE, LOVE, Love LOVE, LOVE, YOU.

DAD

THE ALL NEW BIGGER & BETTER THAN EVER 1991 DAD'S QUESTIONS FOR DION TEST: THE NEXT GENERATION

Since my travels in 1991 allowed me to visit Dion on a few occasions, and I knew her life was somewhat disrupted by her move from Oklahoma to Arkansas, it wasn't until the early fall that this next installment of the Dad's Test was completed.

I guess the fact that Dion had moved even further away and so much time had elapsed since the previous test accounts for the "Dead Sea Scroll" length of this questionnaire. I had a lot of questions about her new living conditions and how she was making the adjustment.

Perhaps this test should have been called "Dad Gets Strung Out On Cappuccino For Dion Test." It was, however, the first test to feature a cover with original art, which I thought was a nice touch.

Along with early Christmas inquiries, I added lots of requests for drawings, which yielded the awesome "Alien From Mars." Steven Spielberg, eat your heart out!

It was also interesting to learn about her fascination with science was continuing and that she was already thinking of college . . . whoa!

QUESTIONS, QUIRKS AND COMMENTS

QUESTION 23 I decided to make further queries to find

QUESTIONS FROM DAD 79

out if she liked to eat anything besides pizza. Can you imagine my horror when *"barbeque"* appeared on her list of *"What do you hate the most?"* I wondered if there might have been a mix-up in the maternity ward!

QUESTION 42 My request for a short poem was granted. However, I found it illuminating that she had clearly labeled her effort "a song." I realized it was a little early to be calling her a chip off the old block, but I liked the way she was thinking.

QUESTION 53 *"Do you ever go to church or Sunday school?"* I was pleased to learn that she was already attending church twice a week.

QUESTION 63 Once again I try to assess her culinary skills. *"If you had to cook a dinner, what could you do best?"* Her answer: *"Food."* At this point, I know she's trying to play Tic Tac Toe with dad's brain.

QUESTION 87 The fact that she could only name two of my four brothers could have seemed disturbing, but the question lets her know that I have four brothers. It's a beginning. Use questions like this to acquaint your child with relatives he or she may be unaware of or has forgotten.

QUESTION 88 *"Would you ever like to come live with your dad for a while?"* At the time, this question seemed harmless to me, but it really wasn't. What am I expecting her to do—make a choice she doesn't really have? It's hard enough being a child without this needless weight. Avoid questions like this altogether.

QUESTION 98 *"What do you wish someone would invent?"* Her response: *"One day per year schooling."* Edison would have been impressed!

THE ALL NEW, BIGGER
AND BETTER, THAN EVER
1991 DAD'S QUESTIONS
FOR DION TEST:
THE NEXT GENERATION



QUESTIONS FROM DAD 81

⑩ NAME ALL THE VIDEO GAMES YOU HAVE. Super M., S. Mario 2 and 3, Monster Party, Chiller, Disneys Magic Kingdom.

⑪ ARE THERE ANY YOU WISH YOU HAD? Yes, Donkey Kong, Tetris, Frisbee, Monopoly, and ect.

⑫ WHAT SIZE SHOE DO YOU WEAR? 6 1/2 women

⑬ WHAT SIZE SHIRT DO YOU WEAR? 14

⑭ HOW TALL ARE YOU? 4ft 8 inches

⑮ HOW MANY FRECKLES ARE ON YOUR NOSE? too many

⑯ WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE? NAME EACH OF THE FOLLOWING:

FAV- ① CANDY latter things

FAV- ② DESERT cheese cake

FAV- ③ SNACK chips, nut, ect.

FAV- ④ DRINK DR. Pepper, water

FAV- ⑤ FRUIT peach

FAV- ⑥ VEGETABLE corn, okra

FAV- ⑦ DINNER macaroni, pizza, c. burger, chicken, steak, ect.

⑰ WHAT DO YOU HATE THE MOST? NAME EACH OF THE FOLLOWING:

HATE ① CANDY real real sweet candy

HATE ② DESERT chocolate cake with chocolate icing fudge

HATE ③ SNACK choc covered raisins

HATE ④ DRINK grape fruit juice

HATE ⑤ FRUIT apples, p. v. nans

HATE ⑥ VEGETABLE spinich of course

HATE ⑦ DINNER Barbecue

⑱ DO YOU STILL HAVE YOUR ART BOX? YES ☒ NO ☐

⑲ IS YOUR NINTENDO SYSTEM SET UP? YES ☒ NO ☐

⑳ HOW MANY HOURS A WEEK DO YOU PLAY? ?

(27) Do you still HAVE YOUR JEWELRY BOX? YES ☒ No ☐

(28) What is your FAVORITE DAY of the Week? Friday, silly
Month: December

SEASON: Winter ☐ Spring ☐ Summer ☐ Fall ☒

(29) NAME THREE things you really, really, really WANT FOR X-MAS

① video games

② mini tv (I want that this one for a while)

③ VHS tapes (Starfield, fairy tales, Disney)

(30) NAME THREE things you would really like FOR X-MAS

① Board games

② Golds, Her Flirt'a but yes more

③ Chameleon of

(31) WRITE YOUR FULL NAME BACKWARDS ^{PPPP} yellint, lincA, eepoiD

(32) NAME THREE things you KINDA WANT FOR X-MAS

① A car, just kidding, a stuffed animal

② wood block

③ I don't know yet.

(33) MARK THREE FAVORITE Holidays, NOT COUNTING X-MAS

PUT A STAR ON
Your Favorite

☒ VALENTINES DAY

☒ 4th of JULY

☒ Elimination

EASTER

☒ HALLOWEEN

☒ Prosses

GROUND HOG DAY

THANKSGIVING

NEW YEARS DAY

ST. PATRICKS DAY

April Fools DAY

Columbus DAY

WASHINGTON'S BIRTHDAY

LABOR DAY

(34) What is your FAVORITE color? purple, Black gold,

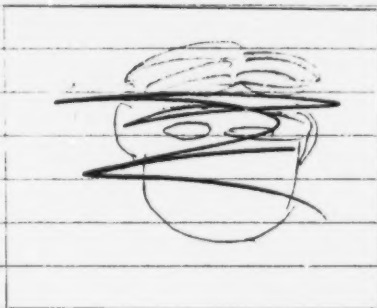
(35) DO YOU HAVE YOUR OWN ROOM? YES ☒ No ☐

If No, who do you SHARE with?

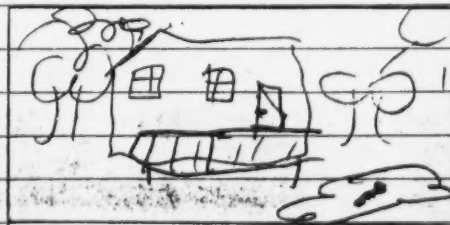
(36) DOES MR. RAT GO OUT FOR A CORN DOG? YES ☒ No ☐

- 37) HAVE YOU SAVED the letters AND PostCARDS I'VE SENT YOU THROUGH THE YEARS? YES ☒ NO ☐ A FEW ☐ A LOT ☐
- 38) Without ASK^{ing} your MOM, CAN YOU spell my MIDDLE NAME? I'll try ~~Allen~~ Alan
- 39) Who is the only Living relative of JULIO MANGLES AND Heir To the MANGLES FORTUNE? Dianne Twilley
- 40) ABOUT WHAT TIME DO YOU GO TO BED? SCHOOL DAYS 11:00 WEEKENDS AS long as I want
- 41) ABOUT WHAT TIME DO YOU GET up? SCHOOL DAYS 7:00 WEEKENDS never 12:00
- 42) WRITE A short POEM ABOUT TOBY. In Toby's Possession
 I wish I had a sandwich, an ice cream one preferred,
 I never wear pants, I like to break dance so you can't
 call me a nerd.
a song
- 43) If you had to be AN ANIMAL, what WOULD you be? my cat
- 44) WHAT IS your FAVORITE SUBJECT IN SCHOOL? Science
- 45) WITHOUT ASKING YOUR MOM, HOW old is your DAD? 30 something
 AND what is His Birthday? DAY ? MONTH ? YEAR ?
- 46) THERE WAS A little MAN IN China TOWN
- 47) What is the SCARIEST THING YOU CAN THINK OF? a ghost of a mad man
- 48) What MAKES you the MOST HAPPY? lotsa mature friends
- 49) What MAKES you the MOST SAD? read Bill
- 50) If you had one WISH? infinity wishes
- 51) WHAT IS your FAVORITE Book? Jungle Books
- 52) Do You think People IN ARKANSAS TALK Differently? YES ☒ NO ☐
- 53) Do You EVER GO TO CHURCH OR SUNDAY SCHOOL? YES ☒ NO ☐
 if YES, HOW OFTEN? twice A WEEK ☒ A MONTH ☐ A YEAR ☐
- 54) How MANY LEGS DOES MAX DOG HAVE? 0 zip
- 55) WHO is YOUR FAVORITE CARTOON CHARACTER? Garfield
- 56) DO YOU THINK YOUR DOING WELL ON this TEST SO FAR? YES ☒ NO ☐

- 57) FIND A Photograph of you. As best you CAN, draw A PICTURE OF YOUR FACE.



- 58) Do you HAVE ANY MONEY SAVED? YES ☒ No ☒ if YES, How MUCH? -10
- 59) Do you HAVE A WARM COAT FOR WINTER? YES ☒ No ☒
IF YES, Do you like it? YES ☒ No ☒
- 60) HAVE YOU SAVED THE PRINCESS IN MARIO I yet? YES ☒ No ☒
- 61) What is the FURTHEST You HAVE Got IN MARIO III? 8-1
- 62) Do you like your GAME? MORE than REGULAR NINTENDO the same
About the SAME ☒ NOT AS MUCH ☒ DON'T like it ANYMORE
- 63) IF you had to COOK A dinner, What Could you do Best? Food
- 64) Would You like to learn to drive A CAR? YES ☒ No ☒ NOT YET
I sort of have
- 65) DRAW THE HOUSE WHERE YOU LIVE.



66. Do you buy LUNCH AT SCHOOL? YES _____ OR TAKE YOUR LUNCH? ☒

67. Do you have a CASSETTE PLAYER? YES ☒ NO ☒ OLD ONE ☒

68. CAN YOU NAME ALL SIX OF YOUR DAD'S ALBUMS? Probly Not

① Wilddays ④

② Stuladines ⑤

③ ⑥

69. Do you HAVE ALL SIX OF MY ALBUMS? YES _____ NO ☒ HOW MANY? 4

70. Who do you like best? ELVIS ☒ THE BEATLES _____

71. When it is 3 O'CLOCK IN THE AFTERNOON IN ARKANSAS, WHAT TIME IS IT IN CALIFORNIA? _____?

72. Do you still HAVE YOUR MICROSCOPE? YES ☒ NO _____

if yes, Do you EVER USE IT? A LITTLE ☒ NOT MUCH _____ NEVER _____

73. WHAT KINDA FOOD Do you FEED YOUR KITTY? Whiskas, Friskies

TOBY \$ BUD Shufine grass and grass train

74. WHICH Do you like BEST, TAKING A SHOWER ☒ OR A BATH? _____

75. TRY TO COPY MY SIGNATURE.

1. High Jilly 1. High Jilly

76. WRITE YOUR OWN SIGNATURE.

Diome D. Willey

77. Do you think there IS LIFE ON OTHER PLANETS?

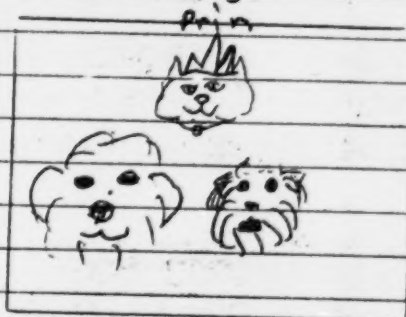
YES _____ NO _____ MAYBE ☒

78. Is There ANY SPORT You like to play? No Hardly

79. ANY SPORT You like to WATCH? No

80. WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE FLOWER? Rose I guess

81) DRAW the following.

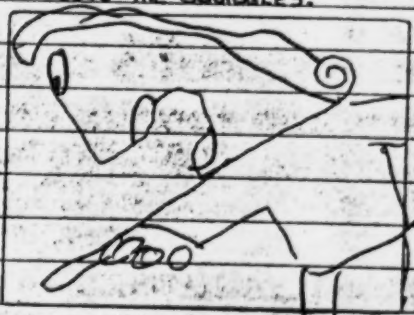


TORY AND BUD



AN ALIEN FROM MARS

82) COMPLETE the SQUIGGLES.



83) WHAT IS THE BEST THING ABOUT X-MAS? present

84) WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO BE ON HALLOWEEN? Cleopatra

85) WHAT WHERE YOU LAST YEAR? Cleopatra

86) WHAT COULD WE GET FAMOUS FOR? Atalking cat

(87) I HAVE four brothers. They ARE your UNCLES. CAN YOU NAME them?

DWANE

Dale

(88) Would you EVER LIKE to COME LIVE with your DAD FOR A while?

YES No

I don't know

(89) Do you like TV DINNERS? YES ✓ No

If YES, what KIND? chicken noodle

(90) Do you like PUZZLES? YES ✓ No NOT MUCH

(91) Which DO you like BEST? A lightening storm ?

A SNOW STORM NEITHER

(92) Do you think you WOULD EVER like to learn to play A

MUSICAL INSTRUMENT? YES ✓ No

If yes, DO YOU KNOW WHICH ONE? No

If No, why not?

(93) If you had A TIME MACHINE, where would you Go? Dinosaur

age

(94) NAME things you Collect. erasers, pencils, pens,
stamps, a von, stuffed animals ect.

(95) What do you hope NOBODY WILL GET YOU FOR X-MAS? socks

(96) Is there one place in the World you would really

Like to go to SOMEDAY? Australia

(97) A PLACE you would never WANT to Go To New York

(98) What do you wish SOMEONE WOULD INVENT? 1 day per

year schooling

(99) Do you have your OWN SCRAP BOOK? YES ✓ No

(100) How MANY STUFFED ANIMALS Do you have, Not Counting

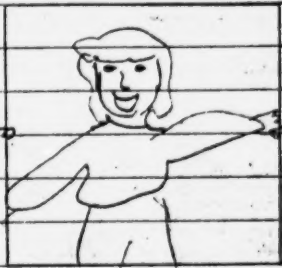
About 30 I Keep For you? 100 - 75 seriously

(101) Do you like STAR TREK? YES ✓ No the NEW ONE

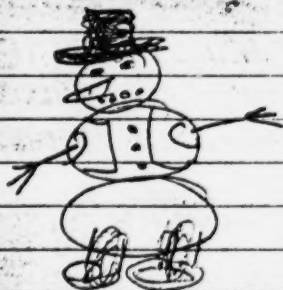
the OLD ONE the movies

102. DRAW the following:

DAD,
I have
a suggestion
ever seen
rubber
rats.



YOUR DAD



A SNOW MAN

Mr.
Batman
Mr. Rat.



A FLEA



A BABY FLEA



MAX DOG



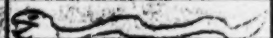
YOUR KITTY



A DOLLAR



A PENNY



A SNAKE

BABY SNAKE



SANTA



TELEPHONE POLE



A JACK-O-LANTERN

Q105) If You had A MILLION DOLLARS what would you do?

(107) How many do you have? 100,000 90 00

⑩ FAVORITE COMIC BOOK? *yes*

110 BESIDES the WIZARD OF OZ, What other MOVIES
COULD WE MAKE? *my fairy tales*

⑪. What subject in school do you dislike the most? S.S.

112 Do You think You MIGHT WANT TO GO TO COLLEGE? YES ☒ NO ☐ Don't Know ☐

- 113 If you have ANY QUESTIONS about the test or JUST WANT TO TALK
You CAN CALL ANY DAY AFTER 4:00 PM FOR FREE. THE CORRECT
NUMBER TO CALL is? 1-800-555-1798 OR 1-800-555-1798 ✓
- 114 Your address in ARKANSAS is Route 12 Box 154. Sometimes Box
Numbers will NOT Accept LARGE PACKAGES. FIND out if it is OK
FOR ME TO SEND YOUR PACKAGES to this Address? YES No ✓
If No, what Address should I MAIL IT TO? Ramonda Thrift-
Way
- 115 I, L O U E L O U E L O
U E L O U E L O U E You.
L O U E L O U E
- 116 Do think this test was better than the LAST ONE? ^{LOVE}
YES ✓ No About the SAME
- 117 ARE you looking FORWARD to the NEXT ONE?
YES ✓ No NOT FOR A WHILE NOT FOR A LONG WHILE
- 118 What Toy have you had the longest TIME, BUT STILL Like?
? I'm not sure what all I have
- 119 MAKE A X-MAS CARD, ANY KIND, ANY COLOR PAPER. CUT IT OUT
AND TAPE OR PASTE IT IN THE BOX MARKED ON the INSIDE
of this TABLET.
- 120 MAKE A HALLOWEEN CARD. PLACE it on the back of this TABLET.
- 121 ARE YOU GLAD this TEST is ALMOST OVER? YES No ✓
- 122 THROUGHOUT the TEST, which of your drawings TURNED out best? ?
- 123 Do you HAVE a bicycle? YES ✓ No Would you like ONE? new one
- 124 Will you SEND ME Another Letter Sometime Soon? I'll try
- 125 For A Million Dollars, would you Kill A Rabbit? no
- 126 CAN you GIVE ME A pretty Good GUESS, about how long
It took you to FINISH THE WHOLE TEST? hours

THE AFTER XMAS DAD'S QUESTIONS FOR DION TEST 1992

This is the first test where I finally leveled out to an even 100 questions. As you can see, the eager reception of dad's exams continued undaunted, as evidenced by my daughter's message, "PLEASE SEND ME MORE," urgently scribed on the first page.

The title art was probably one of my worst efforts. Instead of "After Christmas," it looks more like "During Halloween." What a mistake! Why didn't I use a cover, like I did on the last test? When I got the test back and placed it along side the previous tests, I vowed that all my questionnaires would have covers from that point on. Sloppiness aside, this quiz is one of my favorites.

This edition features a truly excellent rendering of "Samster the Hamster" in Question 29, an invaluable insight into the sacred law, "Thou shalt not withhold little plastic animals from thy child at Christmas."

A few more serious issues are sandwiched between the Little Bunny Family and the Teenage Mutant Ninja Hamsters. A splendid time is guaranteed for all!

QUESTIONS, QUIRKS AND COMMENTS

QUESTION 23 This question earned one of my favorite responses from Dion: "*Did you feel sad about home-*

QUESTIONS FROM DAD 93

less people at Christmas?" Her reply, *"I forgot this year,"* I thought was a very honest and candid answer. For some reason, I know I'll never forget it. There are enough sad things in the world for a little girl to think about at Christmas. I think it's okay she forgot this one.

QUESTIONS 69 and 70 These questions address a scary issue I knew I eventually had to face. I'm also sure I could have easily bumbled the whole thing over the phone. Fortunately, I felt pretty good about the results. In Question 69, I ask *"Do you know any kids that use drugs?"* Her affirmative response was enough to sober even a former hippie like myself. Question 70 inquires, *"Using drugs is: OK; OK if you're careful; OK to try once or twice; Stupid and might kill you."* I believe her "check" on the last answer was honest and allowed dad to sleep much better. I strongly suggest you try the exact same question, or something very similar.

QUESTIONS 73 and 89 Questions like *"The Dad's tests are: Too long; Too short; about right,"* or *"Are you glad this test is almost over?"* are a good way to gauge your success as a "dad-tester." If you receive a disappointing response, perhaps it's time for a visit from the Flea Family.

THE AFTER X-MAS DAD'S FOR DION TEST QUESTION S

Please send me more 1992

- ① How Was Your X-MAS? OK ____ FINE X GREAT ____
- ② Was Your X-MAS, Better Than Last Year ____ About The Same X
- ③ Did it Snow? YES ____ No X
- ④ Do you Wish X-MAS CAME TWICE A YEAR? YES X No ____
- ⑤ NAME YOUR 3 FAVORITE BIG PRESENTS.
 - ① T.V.
 - ② Arcil Doll
 - ③ ~~I don't know~~ cards
- ⑥ NAME YOUR 3 FAVORITE LITTLE PRESENTS.
 - ① stamp
 - ② dolphin ring
 - ③ stuff
- ⑦ What present was the biggest surprise? That one?
- ⑧ Did you get ANY thing you didn't like? YES ____ No X
If YES, WHAT?
- ⑨ Did you GET 2 of the SAME thing? YES ____ No X
If YES, WHAT?

⑩ TRY TO LIST 30 THINGS YOU GOT FOR X-MAS, NO MATTER HOW SMALL, MORE IF YOU CAN.

- | | |
|-----------------------------|----------------|
| ① pen | ⑩ Monopoly |
| ② Mameia Doll & Dress | ⑪ Anticipation |
| ③ Dresses & accessories | ⑫ Tetris |
| ④ Prince Eric | ⑬ Mario set |
| ⑤ T.V. | ⑭ Bunny set |
| ⑥ phone | ⑮ Scooby |
| ⑦ radio | ⑯ Fantasia |
| ⑧ alarm clock | ⑰ Peter Pan |
| ⑨ Odie ~~cat~~ anime | ⑱ Jar |
| ⑩ back scrubber | ⑲ pen |
| ⑪ toothbrush holder | ⑳ pen |
| ⑫ band-aids | ㉑ ring |
| ⑬ toothbrush | ㉒ pound puppy |
| ⑭ paste | ㉓ Evon |
| ⑮ bubble bath | ㉔ clothes |

I can't think of anything else right now

⑪ Which GAME Do you like the best?

- ① ~~TETRIS~~ _____
- ② ~~MONOPOLY~~ _____
- ③ ~~ANTICIPATION~~ _____
- ④ Don't know yet ~~X~~

⑫ HAVE YOU SEEN FANTASIA BEFORE? YES ☒ NO _____

⑬ Do you like it? No _____ A little _____ A lot _____ LOVE it ☒

⑭ How MANY days before X-MAS did you get the box I SENT? ^{1 2}

⑮ Did you open it the day you got it? the box, box

⑯ WHICH 3 KINDS OF TRADING CARDS DID YOU LIKE BEST?

- ① Wizard of Oz
- ② Disney
- ③ Bill & Ted

⑰ IF I FIND OTHER KINDS OF TRADING CARDS, WOULD YOU WANT ME TO GET THEM FOR YOU? YES ☒ No ☐

⑱ HAVE YOU EVER SEEN CARDS LIKE THESE BEFORE? YES ☐ No ☒ ¹

⑲ ARE THERE ANY KINDS OF CARDS THAT I SENT YOU THAT YOU WOULD LIKE MORE OF? YES ☒ No ☐ ^{Some}

IF YES, WHICH ONES? ~~Some~~ I like or other meat ones

⑳ DID YOU LIKE MY NEW X-MAS SONGS? YES ☒ No ☐ Kinda ☐ ALOT ☐

㉑ Which one did you like the Best?

X-MAS NIGHT ☐

X-MAS LOVE ☐

Both ☐

DONT KNOW ☒

㉒ CAN YOU THINK OF A NAME OF A X-MAS SONG I COULD WRITE?

㉓ DID YOU FEEL SAD ABOUT HOMELESS PEOPLE AT X-MAS?

YES ☐ No ☐ DIDNT think about it ☒

㉔ DID YOUR PETS GET ANYTHING FOR X-MAS? YES ☒ No ☐ ^{forget this year}

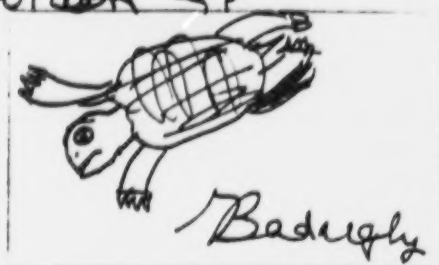
IF YES, WHAT?

BUD Candy cane toys

TOBY lones

PRINCESS of a toys

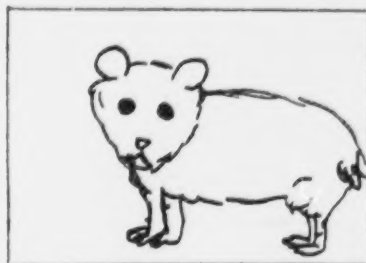
- ②5. WHAT IS YOUR TURTLE'S NAME? *Godzilla*
- ②6. WHAT IS YOUR HAMSTER'S NAME? *Tommy & Kallie's Hamsters*
- ②7. WHAT ARE YOUR DUCKS' NAMES?
- ① *Beatoven*
- ② *Mohawk*



②8

DRAW YOUR TURTLE

②9



DRAW YOUR HAMSTER

- ③0. WHICH DO YOU LIKE THE BEST?
- ① MR. RAT.
- ② JULIO MANGLES ✓
- ③ Both
- ③1. WAS THERE SOMETHING YOU WANTED FOR X-MAS THAT YOU DIDN'T GET? *Mobile Barbie, Kitchen set, 1st Tommy & 57 chess.*

- 32) Since you dont like sports AND I dont like sports,
Did you think it WAS STRANGE that I Sent You "ANGELS
In the OUTFIELD? YES ✓ No
- 33) HAVE You Seen it Before? YES No ✓
- 34) DID You like it? YES NO KINDA' ALOT LOVED IT
HAVENT WATCHED IT YET
- 35) If your PETS WROTE you a letter like the ONE MOM WROTE
TO ME WHAT IS ONE THING TOBY MIGHT SAY? Ok
get him to write one.
- 36) WHAT MIGHT BUD SAY?
ditto
- 37) WHAT WOULD PRINCESS SAY?
ditto
- 38) WHAT WOULD YOUR TURTLE SAY?
O
- 39) WHAT WOULD YOUR HAMSTER SAY?
I
- 40) WHAT WOULD YOUR DUCKS SAY?
++o
- 41) Do you WISH I hadnt spent so much Money on the mini TV
AND GOT YOU MORE toys instead? I dont know

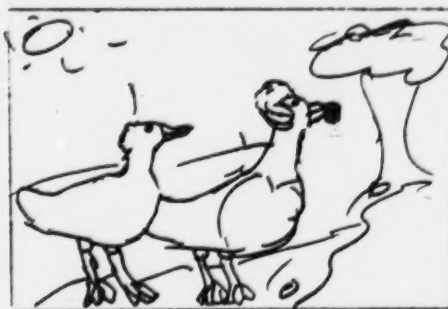
- 42) ARE you going to use the picture Cup I sent You or JUST SAVE it?
USE it ____ SAVE it ☒ throw it AWAY ____ Put things in it ____
USE it For shaving ____ Don't know ____ other ____
- 43) Where is the little bUNNY FAMILY Going to live? on the shelf
next to my kitty pens
- 44) What does to FROM MEAN?
Bully Daddy's nake
- 45) Do you think DADS should BE SAD if they don't get a
CARD or a gift FROM their child AT X-MAS? YES ☒ No ____
- 46) Do you wish I would quit Sending you those silly
PLASTIC ANIMALS EVERY YEAR? YES ____ NO ☒
- 47) Do you think CARRIE (THE PUPPY) IS CUTE? YES ☒ No ____
- 48) Did you think her ADVENTURE IN THE TENT WAS FUNNY? yes
- 49) Do you think CARRIE AND Mow did a good Job WRAPPING your X-MAS
GIFTS? YES ☒ No ____ BUD AND PRINCESS could do Better ____
- 50) Do you think your teachers will believe your mini TV IS A
LUNCH BOX? YES ____ No ☒ oh dad ____
- 51) Do you wish you had a baby brother or sister? YES ____ No ☒
- 52) Which would you RATHER HAVE? Brother ____ Sister ☒
- 53) When you get your presents FROM SUSAN AND JAMIE, will you
CALL OR Write them AND Say thank you? YES ☒ No ____
- 54) HAD you ever played the Monopoly VIDEO GAME BEFORE I
Got it For you? YES ____ No ☒
- 55) What is the WORST NAME FOR A GIRL? Grickson, Mildrid
- 56) What is the WORST NAME FOR A BOY? Bulba, Heath
Beth, Chaze
- 57) Is there a Taco Bell IN ARKANSAS? YES ____ NO ☒
- 58) There was a LITTLE man in CHINA town

cornnute mix

- ⑤3 What do you feed your hamster? *dog*
 ⑤2 What size shoes does your turtle wear? *0*
 ⑤1 Do you or ANYONE ELSE SEE these tests I send you? ~~never~~
 YES ___ NO ___ Just Mom ☒ FRIENDS ___ *not always on all*

⑤0

DRAW
YOUR
DUCKS



- ④3 Do the VIDEO TAPES I SENT YOU PLAY OK ON YOUR VCR? YES ☒ NO ___
 ④2 What ONE WORD best describes my HALLOWEEN VIDEO? *weird*
 ④1 What is your hamster's FAVORITE TV SHOW? *Micky Mouse*
 ④0 Do you like COUNTRY WESTERN MUSIC? YES ___ NO ☒ Don't know ___
 ③9 Do you like the OLD black & white SHERLOCK HOLMES MOVIES? *never seen*
 ③8 Do you like chili Dogs? YES ___ NO ☒ Sometimes ___ NEVER ___
Like chili AND hot dogs, but not Together
 ③7 Do you know ANY KIDS that USE DRUGS? YES ☒ NO ___
 ③6 USING DRUGS IS: OK ___ OK if your CAREFUL ___
OK, TO TRY ONCE OR TWICE ___ STUPID AND MIGHT KILL YOU ☒
 ③5 Do you Remember the Robot show I used to do for you & SUSAN? *yes*
 ③4 Would that MAKE A good VIDEO? *yes*
 ③3 THE DAD'S TESTS ARE: TOO LONG ___ TOO SHORT ☒ ABOUT RIGHT ___
 ③2 What is the best you have done ON DR. MARIO? *level 13 or so*
 ③1 ARE you looking FORWARD to getting OLDER? YES ___ NO *yes*

QUESTIONS FROM DAD 101

- 75) Which do you think would be the BEST MOVIE? "Robo Duck" _____
 "TEENAGE MUTANT NINJA HAMSTERS" ~~X~~ "FRANKENSTEIN'S KITTY, LONZO" _____
- 76) Do you believe in GHOSTS? YES ~~1~~ NO _____ Don't Know _____
- 77) What do you think is a good NAME for a MOVIE? Buddy the _____
- 78) What could we get FAMOUS FOR? Making a giant cup _____
making another movie
- 79) Did you like Mom's letter? YES ~~✓~~ NO _____
- 80) CAN YOUR KITTY TYPE? YES ~~✓~~ NO _____ ~~she~~ SHE PLAYS GREAT PIANO ~~2~~ ✓
- 81) Did you think 1991 WAS A good YEAR? YES ~~✓~~ NO _____
- 82) Will 1992 BE BETTER? YES _____ NO _____ Don't Know _____ Hope so ~~2~~!
- 83) How MANY days WERE you SICK over the Holidays? week or so
- 84) ARE you BACK to your SPUNKY SELF? YES _____ NO _____ ALMOST ~~3~~
- 85) Is there ANYTHING you hope to do this YEAR?
- 86) @** 30 ÷ 0 * 526? YES _____ NO _____ ~~3:0~~ ~~30~~ Don't Know ~~3~~
- 87) IN MARIO III, the Most LIVES you CAN GET is 99 TRUE ~~2~~ FALSE _____
- 88) Could you send me a Picture of your ducks? yes
- 89) ARE you GLAD this test is ALMOST OVER? YES _____ NO ~~2~~
- 90) What is your FAVORITE FLAVOR ICE CREAM? Chocolate
- 91) Do you think Julio MANGLES has EVER BEEN to ARKANSAS? maybe
- 92) Do you think I REPEAT SOME of MY QUESTIONS? YES _____ NO ~~2~~
- 93) Do you think I REPEAT SOME of MY QUESTIONS? YES ~~2~~ NO _____
- 94) How MANY AVON items ARE in your Collection? about 100
- 95) ARE you PLANNING to get ANY NEW pets? If YES, what? male
cow, lamb, chick and
- 96) HAVE you WON a GAME of Monopoly YET? YES ~~✓~~ NO _____ ALMOST _____
- 97) Which TOKEN do you USE? car, horse, dog
- 98) Do you still HAVE a copy of Super Dion? on Beta
- 99) How long did it TAKE you to finish this test? Don't know
- 100) Your DAD, thinks you OK _____ Kinda likes you _____
 LOVES you _____ LOVE, LOVES you _____ LOVE, LOVE, LOVE, LOVE,
 LOVE, LOVE, LOVE, LOVE, LOVE, LOVE, LOVE, LOVE, LOVE, LOVES you ~~2~~

100 QUESTIONS FROM DAD

In this landmark decision, I have finally customized my title into the current "100 Questions From Dad" model.

Even my cover was a showroom centerpiece compared to the ugliness of Christmas past. Inside, a shaky "dot-to-dot" is saved by the sublimely captured essence of "Old Grandpa Snake."

The interactive atmosphere of the questionnaire continues to chart unpredictable paths. I ask Dion to "*Complete the squiggle*." She throws the ball back in my court, and requests that I complete *her* squiggle. I guess it's only fair.

QUESTIONS, QUIRKS AND COMMENTS

QUESTION 30 I was curious if, like when I was in school, there was one teacher Dion just hated. I was pleased that she confided in me and named the teacher. However, I've rendered the name illegible to protect the innocent.

QUESTION 31 In another school-related question, I probed, "*What is Samster's favorite subject?*" I

received a choice response, "*Reading. He hates science-sometimes his cousins are used.*" Good answer, Groucho!

QUESTION 38 I believe this is an important question for distant dads to ask: "*If anyone ever really hurt you or did something bad to you, would you tell your Dad?*" Not only does the question let your child know that you are concerned about how he or she is treated, it also initiates the idea that it would be okay to confide in dad if any problem arose.

QUESTION 63 Here's an example of how a simple question can turn out to be important. I thought she surely she knew my phone number! She didn't.

QUESTION 98 "*Could you call me sometime soon?*" Naturally a question like this will only fly if phone calls to and from your child are not a custodial issue.

100 QUESTIONS



FROM DAD

QUESTIONS FROM DAD 105

- ① I really liked your "A FEW ?'S FOR DAD TEST". WILL YOU SEND ME MORE? YES ☒ NO ☐ MAYBE ☐
- ② I KEEP SENDING YOU MORE TRADING CARDS. HOW MANY DIFFERENT KINDS OF CARDS DO YOU HAVE IN YOUR COLLECTION? 46 NOW.
- ③ HAVE YOU WATCHED "ANGELS IN THE OUTFIELD" YET? YES ☐ NO ☒
- ④ IF YES, DID YOU LIKE IT? YES ☐ NO ☐ KINDA ☐ LOVED IT ☐
- ⑤ WHEN I PLAY MONOPOLY, I LIKE TO PLAY WITH CARMEN AND ISAAC. WHO DO YOU LIKE TO PLAY WITH? ~~MAYBE~~ ☐ OLLIE ☐ GERTRUDE ☐ ISAAC ☐ ARTHUR ☐ ERWIN ☐ CARMEN ☐ PEN~~E~~LOPE ☐ IT DOESN'T MATTER ☒
- ⑥ WHAT DID THE DUCK SAY WHEN ITS MOTHER BROUGHT IT SOME SOUP?
 (A) BRING ME A GLASS OF WADDLE ☐
 (B) I'D FEATHER HAVE STEAK ☒
 (C) COULD I HAVE SOME QUACKERS ☐
- ⑦ DOES YOUR BETA STILL WORK? YES ☐ NO ☒ IT DIED LONG AGO ☒
- ⑧ TODAY IS JAN 20, WHAT HAPPENS 3 MONTHS FROM NOW? My B-Day
- ⑨ HAS IT SNOWED SINCE YOU'VE BEEN IN ARKANSAS? NO ☐ A LITTLE ☒ A LOT ☐
- ⑩ DOES YOUR MINI-TV GET AS MANY STATIONS AS YOUR OTHER ONE? no
- ⑪ DO YOU THINK YOU WOULD EVER WANT TO FLY A JET AIRCRAFT? I don't know
- ⑫ WOULD YOU EVER LIKE TO TAKE A SHIP ACROSS THE OCEAN? yes
- ⑬ WOULD YOU EVER WANT TO CLIMB A MOUNTAIN? yes
- ⑭ WOULD YOU LIKE TO GO SCUBA DIVING? yes
- ⑮ WOULD YOU LIKE TO HAVE HOT NAILS JABBED IN YOUR EYEBALLS? no not really
- ⑯ DO YOU THINK YOU WOULD EVER TRY SKY DIVING? maybe
- ⑰ WOULD YOU LIKE TO GO UP IN A HOT AIR BALLOON? yes
- ⑱ WOULD YOU LIKE TO RIDE AN ELEPHANT? yes
- ⑲ WOULD YOU LIKE TO EXPLORE A CAVE? yes
- ⑳ WOULD YOU GO ON A TREASURE HUNT? yes
- ㉑ WOULD YOU LIKE TO STOP ANSWERING QUESTIONS ABOUT WHAT YOU MIGHT WANT TO DO? sure

- 22 WHAT GRADE IN SCHOOL ARE YOU IN? 6th
 23 HOW MUCH HOMEWORK DO YOU GET? NOT MUCH ☒ ALOT ☐ TONS ☐
 24 WHAT SUBJECT GIVES YOU THE MOST HOMEWORK? Math
 25 WHAT SUBJECT AT SCHOOL IS THE HARDEST? Health
 26 WHICH IS EASY? English, Spelling
 27 IS YOUR SCHOOL TOO FAR TO WALK TO? yes
 28 HOW DO YOU THINK YOUR GRADES ARE? NOT GOOD ☐ FAIR ☐ GOOD ☐ GREAT ☒
 29 DO YOU LIKE YOUR TEACHERS? yes
 30 IS THERE ONE YOU HATE? IF YES, WHO
 31 WHAT IS SAMSTERS FAVORITE SUBJECT? Reading (He hates science sometimes his cousins are cool)
 32 WHICH IS BEST? HOT DOG ☒ HAMBURGER ☐
 33 WHICH IS BEST? CAKE ☒ PIE ☐
 34 WHICH IS BEST? CAPTAIN CRUNCH ☒ CORN FLAKES ☐
 35 WHICH IS BEST? ROCK N ROLL ☒ RAP ☐
 36 WHICH IS BEST? LIGHTENING ☒ THUNDER ☐
 37 WHICH IS BEST? MOVIES ☒ TV ☐ RADIO ☐ RECORDS ☐
 38 IF ANYONE EVER REALLY HURT YOU OR DID SOMETHING BAD
 TO YOU, WOULD YOU TELL YOUR DAD? YES ☒ NO ☐ DON'T KNOW ☐
 39 WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE DINOSAUR? Dinosaurs
 40 WHAT IS THE WORST INSECT? Wasp
 41 WHAT IS THE BEST INSECT? lady bug
 42 DRAW THE WORST INSECT 43 DRAW THE BEST INSECT



- 44) How MANY PILLOWS do you like to sleep with? 2
 45) How MANY PILLOWS does GODZILLA sleep with? 2,000
 46) Do you EVER REMEMBER ME IN YOUR PRAYERS? yes
 47) Do you KNOW how to IRON A SHIRT? yes
 48) Do you KNOW how to SEW? yes
 49) Do you KNOW how to MAKE AN ATOMIC BOMB? learning
 50) If you did, WHERE WOULD you USE it? school
 51) There was a little man in China Town
 52) Do you like BUTTERMILK? no
 53) HAVE YOU EVER PLANTED ANYTHING? yes
 54) If yes, WHAT? tomatoes, squash, onions, tree
 55) Did it GROW? yes
 56) If You SAW A GHOST, WOULD YOU BE SCARED? YES — No — ^{DONT} KNOW ✓
 57) Do You think there is life ON other planets? maybe
 58) Do You think there is life ON our planet? na
 59) My Mother, YOUR GRANDMOTHER, you CALL JAMMIE.
 WHAT IS her REAL NAME? Alberta TWILLEY.
 60) Did you like the ART I did ON the COVER of this test?
 YES 44 No — (By the way you CAN KEEP the COVER if you WANT)
 61) I sent you COPIES of your OLD TESTS AND GRADED them.
 WOULD you like ME to KEEP Doing that IN the FUTURE? yes

62) If this is BABY SNAKE S AND this is MOMMY SNAKE S

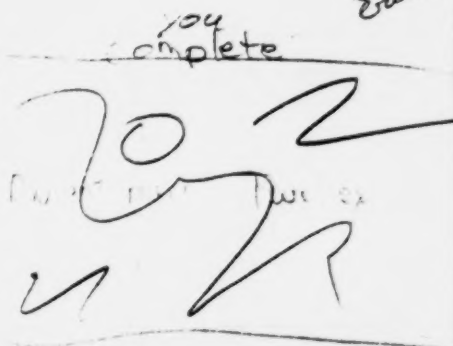
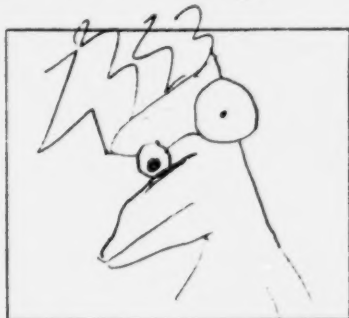
AND THIS IS DADDY SNAKE S WHAT DOES OLD GRANDPA SNAKE
LOOK LIKE



- ⑥3 I KNOW you KNOW the 800 Number that you CAN USE to CALL ME FOR FREE. BUT IN CASE OF AN EMERGENCY, Do you KNOW my HOME NUMBER? AREA CODE _____
- ⑥4 Do you help your MOM AROUND the HOUSE?
YES ☒ No _____ A LITTLE ☒ A LOT _____
- ⑥5 NAME SOME WILD ANIMALS you HAVE SEEN SINCE you MOVED TO ARKANSAS. *deer, fox, armadillo, opossum, hawk,*

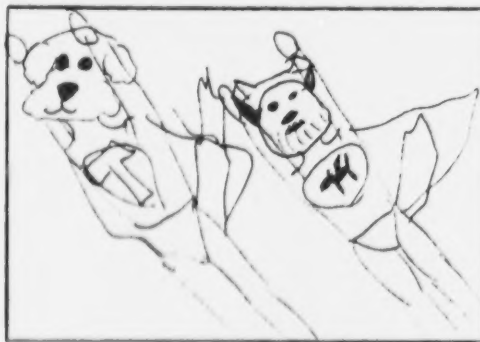
⑥6 YOUR DAD WAS BORN ON the _____ DAY of the _____ Month AT _____ O'CLOCK AND THERE ARE 12 Letters IN HIS NAME.

- ⑥7 WHAT IS THE BEST DISNEY MOVIE? *Handone with Little Mermaid, Snow White, Green Eggs*
- ⑥8 Complete the Squiggle.



- ⑥9 WHAT Did you do with the MARBLES I got you? *kept them for looks*
- ⑦0 ON AN OLD TEST you SAID you HATED BOYS. Do you still? *yes*
- ⑦1 Did you GET ANY DREADED SOCKS FOR X-MAS? *no*
- ⑦2 Why would you NEVER WANT TO GO TO NEW YORK? *to dangerous and crowded*
- ⑦3 You SHOULD NEVER EAT Anything THATS bigger than YOUR HEAD. TRUE ☒ FALSE _____

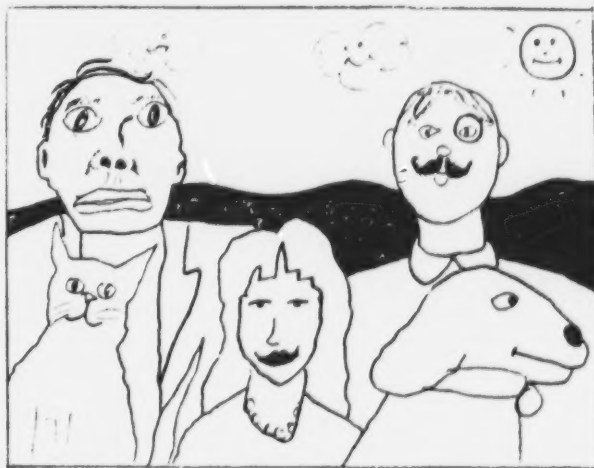
- 74) HAVE you seen "hook" yet? *yes*
- 75) Would you like it if I wrote A REAL book about the DAD'S TESTS? It could help other DAD'S who live FAR AWAY their KIDS, MAKE their OWN TESTS. YES *yes* NO *no*
- 76) COULD WE GET FAMOUS FOR it? YES *yes* NO *no* MAYBE *maybe*
- 77) IF I MADE this book, I WOULD USE PICTURES OF YOU AND ME, AND SHOW THE TESTS. WOULD it BOTHER you if THOUSANDS of PEOPLE SAW your DRAWINGS AND ANSWERS? YES *yes* NO *no*
- 78) WOULDn't it BE FUNNY IF Suddenly everyone WAS CALLING EACH other DADDY, MOMMY OR BABY SNAKE, SINGING LITTLE MAN IN CHINA TOWN AND getting letters FROM their pets. *yes*
- 79) I WAS SURPRISED you COULDN'T think OF A NAME OF AN X-MAS SONG I COULD WRITE. CAN you think OF A NAME OF ANY KIND OF SONG, I COULD WRITE? *no, from the 70's*
- 80) DRAW,



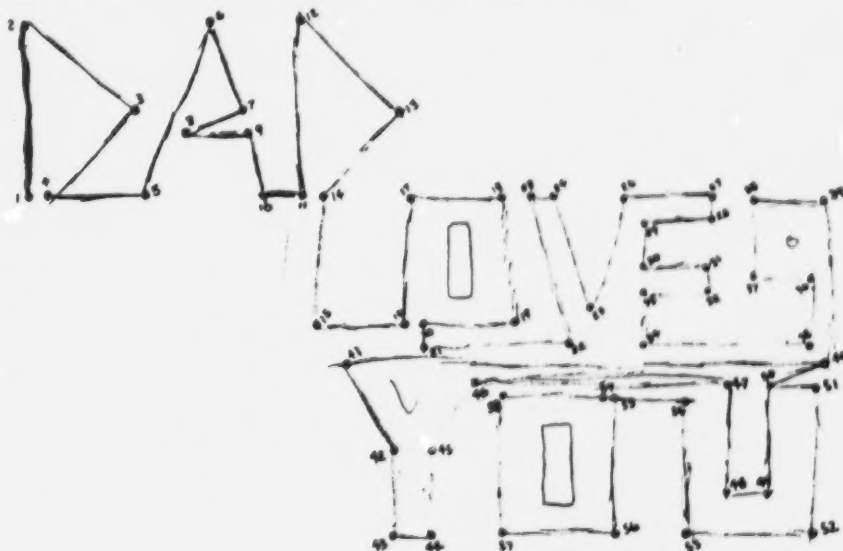
SUPER TOBY AND BATBUD

- 81) COULD this MAKE A GOOD MOVIE? *yes*
- 82) MOW WANTS to WRITE A letter to PRINCESS. WOULD that BE OK? *yes*
- 83) WHERE is the third largest statue of JULIO MANGIES IN the WORLD LOCATED? *Julia*

(84) Complete the DRAWING



(85) Connect The Dots By Number (You Might Use A RULER)



QUESTIONS FROM DAD 111

- 86 What is your FAVORITE PART of Julio MANGLES? _____
 87 Is there ANYTHING Good About LIVER? ~~no~~ liver
 88 Do you think my PRINTING is good? yes
 89 Do you think my PAINTING is good? no
 90 WHAT MAKES your FUNNY BONE FUNNY? it tickles
 91 CAN you GUESS how long it took ME to MAKE this test? no
 92 DRAW TANOOKI MARIO



- 94 HAVE you ever heard of "ULTRAMAN"? no
 95 Who do you like best, CAPTAIN KIRK ✓ OR CAPTAIN PICARD _____
 96 Who do you like best, MR SPOCK ✓ OR DATA _____
 97 ABOUT How long did it TAKE you to FINISH this test? _____
 98 COULD you CALL ME SOMETIME SOON? yes
 99 DID you think the GRADES I GAVE you ON TESTS WERE FAIR? yes
 100 Do you MISS ME? yes

THE DAD'S TEST FOR DION'S TRIP TO CALIFORNIA, 1992

This special test boasts over 200 exciting questions—and a few stupid ones!

I initiated my "symbol-in-the-box" technique for the simple purpose of deciding what I could feed my kid for two weeks without invoking the dreaded "liver" response! Besides, fourteen pizzas might get a little boring. It also provided me with an interesting overall look at my daughter's diet. I think "*beans and lizards*" and "*rubber pickles*" helped avoid monotony.

The test is divided into Parts I and II. I can't explain the purpose this may have served, but it looked cool!

Subtle aspects of your child's answers may go unnoticed. Only recently I made the following observation. At the beginning of Part II, I listed a succession of twenty yes/no/maybe inquiries. I can see now that the confining regimen here was obviously limiting Dion's capacity to express her answers, and that she had devised a unique solution to the problem. What I once interpreted to be sloppiness or disinterest, was really much more! Dion had used the size and shape of her check marks to demonstrate her emotional response to the questions. When it comes to the "Dad's Tests," expect the unexpected.

QUESTIONS, QUIRKS AND COMMENTS

QUESTION 6 and 7 Earlier, when I mentioned my numbering mistake in test number one, I had no idea of the scope of my almost dyslexic approach to mathematics. Throughout my tests, I find numbers omitted, repeated and placed out of order for no apparent reason. I don't know whether to consult my accountant or see a therapist!

QUESTION 151 "*Which is best: doughnuts or cinnamon rolls?*" Her answer: "*A mystery of the world.*" The answer really shows Dion's sense of humor!

QUESTION 153 "*What kind of pipe tobacco do you use?*" An important question that every dad needs to know before a visit of this type.

THE DAD'S TEST FOR DION'S TRIP TO CALIFORNIA MAY 1992

OVER 200 EXCITING QUESTIONS/AND A FEW STUPID ONES

In the first part of the Test, choose ONE of these FIVE Symbols
that best describes How You Feel About the items listed.



LOVE IT



LIKE IT



IT'S OK



HATE IT



DON'T KNOW

I LEFT A SPACE UNDER
EACH ITEM, IN CASE
YOU HAVE ANY COMMENTS

- ① MILK ☐ ② CHOCOLATE MILK ☐ ③ BUTTER MILK ☐
- ④ APPLE JUICE ☐ ⑤ ORANGE JUICE ☐ ⑥ PRUNE JUICE ☐
- ⑦ TOMATO JUICE ☐ ⑧ ONION JUICE ☐ ⑨ LEMONADE ☒

QUESTIONS FROM DAD 115

♥ = LOVE 😊 = LIKE ✓ = OK ✕ = HATE ? = DON'T KNOW

- ⑧ CRANAPPLE JUICE ☐ ? ⑨ ICED TEA ☐ 😊 ⑩ COKE ☐ ♥
 ⑪ DR PEPPER ☐ ♥ ⑫ 7UP ☐ ♥ ⑬ ROOT BEER ☐ ⑭ MALTS ☐ ?
 ⑮ MILK SHAKES ☐ ? ⑯ MOTOR OIL ☐ ✕ ⑰ CORN ☐ ?
 ⑱ CORN ON THE COB ☐ ♥ ⑲ CREAM CORN ☐ ♥ ⑳ POP CORN ☐ ♥
 ㉑ GREEN BEANS ☐ ✕ ㉒ PORK AND BEANS ☐ ✕ ㉓ PEAS ☐ 😊
 → ㉔ BEANS AND WEENIES ☐ ✕ ㉕ BEANS AND LIZZARDS ☐ ✕ ㉖ RICE ☐ ✓
 ㉗ SPINACH ☐ ✕ ㉘ TOMATOES ☐ ✓ ㉙ BEETS ☐ ? ㉚ CARROTS ☐ ✓
 ㉛ LETTUCE ☐ 😊 ㉜ ONION ☐ ✕ ㉝ ASPARAGUS ☐ ✕ ㉞ SQUASH ☐ ✕
 ㉟ SAUERKRAUT ☐ ? ㊱ BROCCOLI ☐ ✕ ㊲ CELERY ☐ ✓ ㊳ SPIDERS ☐ ✓
 ㊴ ARTICHOKEs ☐ ? ㊵ BRUSSELS SPROUTS ☐ ✕ ㊶ MUSHROOMS ☐ ?
 ㊷ SWEET PICKLES ☐ ♥ ㊸ DILL PICKLES ☐ ✕ ㊹ RUBBER PICKIES ☐ ✓
 ㊺ GREEN OLIVES ☐ ✕ ㊻ RIPE OLIVES ☐ ✕ ㊼ MASHED POTATOES ☐ ♥
 ㊽ SWEET POTATOES ☐ ? ㊾ MR. POTATOE HEAD ☐ ✕ ㊿ PEARS ☐ ♥
 ① STRAWBERRIES ☐ ♥ ② BANANNAS ☐ ✓ ③ Apples ☐ ✓ ④ ORANGES ☐ 😊
 ⑤ PEACHES ☐ ♥ ⑥ BLACKBERRIES ☐ ♥ ⑦ CHERRIES ☐ ♥ ⑧ RAISINS ☐ ✓

♥ = LOVE ♡ = LIKE ✓ = OK ✕ = HATE ? = DONT KNOW

- 59 PINEAPPLE ☒ 60 GRAPEFRUIT ☒ 61 GRAPES ☒ 62 COCONUT ☒
 63 WATERMELON ☒ 64 CANTALOUPE ☒ 65 APRICOTS ☒ 66 LIVER ☒
 67 STEAK ☒ 68 HAM ☒ 69 FRIED RAT ☒ 70 PORK CHOPS ☒
 71 BACON ☒ 72 SAUSAGE ☒ 73 BAKED CHICKEN ☒ 74 TUNA ☒
 75 FRIED CHICKEN ☒ 76 FROZEN CHICKEN ☒ 77 CHICKEN FRIED STEAK ☒
 78 PEPPERONI ☒ 79 MEAT LOAF ☒ 80 MEATBALLS ☒
 81 MEAT NEW FRIENDS ☒ 82 OYSTERS ☒ 83 LOBSTER ☒ 84 CLAMS ☒
 85 SQUID ☒ 86 CATFISH ☒ 87 DOG FISH ☒ 88 RED SNAPPER ☒
 89 SHRIMP COCKTAIL ☒ 90 SHRIMP SCAMPI ☒ 91 FRIED SHRIMP ☒
 92 SCRAMBLED EGGS ☒ 93 EGGS SUNNYSIDE UP ☒ 94 DEVILED EGGS ☒
 95 EGG NOG ☒ 96 FROG EGGS ☒ 97 Omelets ☒ 98 YOGURT ☒
 99 SALAD ☒ 100 BLUE CHEESE DRESSING ☒ THOUSAND ISLAND DRESSING ☒
 101 ITALIAN DRESSING ☒ 102 HAIR DRESSING ☒ 103 MUSTARD ☒
 104 MAYONNAISE ☒ 105 MIRACLE WHIP ☒ 106 A1 STEAK SAUCE ☒
 107 PICKLE RELISH ☒ 108 TARTAR SAUCE ☒ 109 RANCH DRESSING ☒

QUESTIONS FROM DAD 117

♥ = LOVE ♡ = LIKE ✓ = OK X = HATE ? = DON'T KNOW

- (111) SWISS CHEESE ☒ JACK CHEESE ☐ (113) STRING CHEESE ☐
 (114) CREAM CHEESE ☒ (115) BAGELS ☒ (116) COTTAGE CHEESE ☐
 (117) PARMESAN ☒ (118) SNAILS ☒ (119) SALSA ☒ (120) BAGWORMS ☒
 (121) SPAGHETTI ☒ (122) SPAGHETTI AND CHILLI ☒ (123) MEATBALLS ☒
 (124) MEATBATS ☒ (125) RITZ CRACKERS ☒ (126) SALTINE CRACKERS ☒
 (127) FIRE CRACKERS ☒ (128) GUACAMOLE Dip ☒ (129) BEAN DIP ☒
 (131) Kitty Litter Dip ☒ (132) CHINESE Food ☒ (133) INDIAN Food ☒
 (134) FRENCH ONION Soup ☐ (135) STEAK AND BERNAlSE SAUCE ☒
 (136) GREEN BEAN AND CHEESE SAUCE ☒ (137) CAESAR SALAD ☐
 (138) GARLIC BREAD ☒ (139) STIR FRY ☒ (140) POTATOE SALAD ☐
 (141) NAME YOUR THREE FAVORITE BREAKFAST CEREALS
 ① Captain Crunch Ceref ^{don't}
 ② Basic ^{Butter}
 ③ plenty others
 (142) WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE KIND OF COOKIE? Choc. chip
 (143) WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE KIND OF CAKE? vanilla or choc
 (144) WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE KIND OF PIE? choc or peach
 (145) WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE KIND OF SOUP? chicken noodl

- (146) What is your FAVORITE FLAVOR ICE CREAM? chocolate
- (147) What is your FAVORITE Pudding? Banana & here
- (148) What is your FAVORITE Poisonous SNAKE? Rattles
- (149) What is your FAVORITE KIND of chips? Dirty chips & lays
- (150) What's on your FAVORITE SANDWICH? Crill Cheese
- (151) Which is best, Donuts or CINNAMON ROLLS? A mystery about
- (152) What Toppings Do You like ON PIZZA? cheese & ham
- (153) WHAT KIND of PIPE TOBACCO Do you USE? Pepper
- (154) Which do you like best, bubble BATH or SHOWER? showers
- (155) CAN you believe I CAME up with this MANY QUESTIONS? yes
- (156) Do you HAVE ANY NEW Photos you could SEND ME? yes
- (157) Will you Remember to bring Gum to CHEW ON the PLANE? yes
- (158) Are you Nervous about flying Alone? no
- (160) Who was a little MAN INDEED? a little man in China
- (161) What did the baby SNAKE Say to the Mommie SNAKE? SSSS

Answer: Nothing, SNAKES CAN'T TALK.

- (162) Do you think this test is too long? no
- (163) Do you PROMISE NOT TO PUT COLD DR. PEPPER GLASSES ON DAD'S FOOT IN THE MORNING? yes
- (164) DOES DAD PROMISE NOT TO HIDE IN DARK CORNERS AND MAKE SCARY NOISES? I don't know
- (165) Will you bring the VIDEO of your pets so I CAN MAKE A COPY? yes and your father and b-day present
- (166) Are you Going to bring SUNGLASSES to SUNNY CALIFORNIA? yes
- (167) Do you think JULIO MANGLES MAY HAVE EVER VISITED DISNEYLAND? yes
- (168) Do you think the MONORAIL MAY ONCE HAVE BEEN CALLED — the MANGLES ORAIL? yes he donated it
- (169) What will our Feet feel like when we leave DISNEYLAND? happy
- (170) Where in Disneyland Will DAD WANT TO GO EAT chilli? Gracias
none grapes

PART 2

THINGS WE MIGHT WANT TO DO DURING YOUR VISIT. *how fun*

- ① Go to Disneyland. YES ☒ NO ☐ MAYBE ☐
- ② ASK EVERYONE AT Disneyland to OUR House FOR HAMBURGERS. YES ☐ NO ☒ MAYBE ☐
- ③ PLAY VIDEO GAMES. YES ☒ NO ☐ MAYBE ☐
- ④ MAKE A MOVIE YES ☒ NO ☐ MAYBE ☐
- ⑤ SET BUILDINGS ON FIRE AND LOOT STORES. YES ☒ NO ☐ MAYBE ☐ *Nice! son
holson
family
fun*
- ⑥ Try to keep the puppy out of the pool. YES ☒ NO ☐ MAYBE ☐
- ⑦ Look at Dad's Collections. YES ☒ NO ☐ MAYBE ☐
- ⑧ HAVE A Robot Show. YES ☒ NO ☐ MAYBE ☐
- ⑦ EAT BARBECUE EVERY NIGHT. YES ☐ NO ☒ MAYBE ☐
- ⑩ RECORD A SONG Together IN DAD'S Studio. YES ☐ NO ☐ MAYBE ☒
- ⑪ HAVE DAD'S PHOTOGRAPHER DO A PHOTO SESSION OF US. YES ☐ NO ☐ MAYBE ☒
- ⑫ WATCH OUR MOVIES, Like Super Dicks. YES ☒ NO ☐ MAYBE ☐
- ⑬ Go to Hollywood AND look FOR TRADING CARDS. YES ☒ NO ☐ MAYBE ☐

⑭ Dion Works In the YARD All day while DAD RELAXES by the Pool.
YES — No — ☒ MAYBE —

⑮ Drive to the Ocean.
YES — ☒ No — MAYBE —

⑯ Go to Hollywood AND SEE A MOVIE IN A BIG THEATRE.
YES ☒ No — MAYBE —

⑰ Go to A DRIVE-IN THEATRE
YES ☒ No — MAYBE —

⑱ WALK to the PARK AND FEED the ducks.
YES — ☒ No — MAYBE —

⑲ Try For Hours to Feed the CERAMIC Duck in my BACKYARD.
YES — No ☒ MAYBE —

⑳ While We're busy TRYING to do ALL THESE things, try to HAVE FUN.
YES ☒ No — MAYBE —

㉑ List Which VIDEO GAMES you ARE Going to BRING with you?

Monster Party
Majic Kingdom
Super-land
Tetris
Anticipation

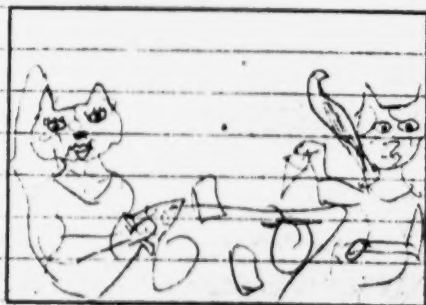
㉒ Will you MIND If CARRIE WANTS To sleep with you? Nope

㉓ SINCE SCHOOL will BE OUT AND it will be your VACATION,
ABOUT WHAT TIME Do you Think you Will WANT To go
to BED AT NIGHT? 1:00 morning (H.A.)

㉔ WHAT TIME will you get up? 8:00 or so

㉕ SINCE the puppy Will ATTACK AND Kill your stuffed Animals
I thought I would just put SOME of them in your Room.
IS that OK? Yes

26) DRAW MOW AND PRIN SHARING A PIZZA



27) DRAW BID AND TOBY AT DISNEYLAND



- 28) ARE YOU GLAD THIS TEST IS ALMOST OVER? No
- 29) DO YOU STILL WANT ME TO SEND YOU MORE TESTS IN THE FUTURE? NO
- 30) WERE SO excited ABOUT OUR TRIP TO DISNEYLAND THAT WE MIGHT laugh BEFORE WE GET THERE. AND I KNOW WE'LL REALLY BE sad ON THE WAY HOME.
- 31) YOUR DAD To make a long story short

Loves You.

100 QUESTIONS FROM DAD: AN EXTRA EXCELLENT XMAS EXAMINATION

While I must admit it was really hard coming up with 100 questions about Christmas, it was well worth the effort.

It was great to get a look at how the Snake and Flea families spent Christmas. Toby Claus and Rudolph the Red Nosed Mallard deserve honorable mention as well!

I also introduced some new activities—a "Where's Waldo"-type "Where's Santa," and a "fill-in-the-blank story." Furthermore, the test features the birth of a new, all-purpose holiday, "*The Fourth of Chrisoween-thankseaster Day*." Coming up with these ideas is kind of like throwing darts at a map. You either end up in Beverly Hills—or Death Valley!

It was interesting to learn that Dion would like a pet skunk. Boy, would that be a holiday surprise for the folks back home!

QUESTIONS, QUIRKS AND COMMENTS

QUESTION 38 While really stretching to come up with all these Christmas questions, I came up with this silly query. "*Why does Noel have an 'L' in it?*" I thought her answer was really clever: "*I don't noe.*"

QUESTION 39 *"Can you think of a New Year's resolution for 1993?"* She issued the following pledge: *"I won't eat anything with sugar in it . . . NOT!"* A "most excellent" answer, babe!

QUESTION 39 *"Since you couldn't come out for Christmas, do you think maybe you might like a little longer visit this summer—say three or four weeks?"* Sometimes the temptation arises to dream out loud. Try not to ask for decisions that are not your child's to make.

QUESTION 90 Here, I ask Dion to complete my list of *"The ten things you would never want to find under your Xmas tree on Xmas morning."* Her entries:

- 6 A dead frog
- 7 Rotten apple
- 8 A dead Santa
- 9 A broken Christmas ornament
- 10 Nothing

I guess 8 and 10 could throw a wrench in the whole yuletide thing!

100 QUESTIONS FROM DAD

AN EXTRA EXCELLENT
X-MAS EXAMINATION



QUESTIONS FROM DAD 125

- ① What is your FAVORITE X-MAS SONG? *White Christmas Silent Night*
- ② Is there A X-MAS SONG you hate? *No*
- ③ HAVE SUGAR-PLUMS EVER DANCED ON your head? *No*
- ④ I'VE BEEN HAVING FUN WITH ZELDA, WOULD you like it? *Yes*
- ⑤ Is there ANOTHER VIDEO GAME you Might like?
S. Mario Land Gameboy - Any other games?
- ⑥ ARE you Going to HAVE A X-MAS TREE this year? *No*
- ⑦ NAME THREE things you WOULD NEVER HANG ON A X-MAS TREE.
 - ① *Skunk air freshener*
 - ② *raw meat*
 - ③ *Pinos*
- ⑧ How MANY different KINDS of TRADING CARDS do you HAVE now? *gillie*
- ⑨ Do you KNOW where you will SPEND X-MAS DAY? *Here pretty*
- ⑩ NAME three BIG things you Might WANT For X-MAS.
 - ① *TABOO*
 - ② *camera*
 - ③ *Electronic Battle ship*
- ⑪ DRAW RUDOLPH THE RED NOSED MALLARD.



⑫ HAVE YOU SAVED SOME MONEY FOR X-MAS PRESENTS? *Yes*

⑬ BESIDES YOUR MOM, WHO WILL YOU GET GIFTS FOR?

YOU

⑭ ARE YOU GOING TO SEND OUT ANY X-MAS CARDS? *Yes*

⑮ WHAT IS ONE OF YOUR FAVORITE X-MAS MOVIES?

The Christmas Story + ^{1st} Alone 1+2 etc.

⑯ DRAW TOBY CLAUS



⑰ MAN, A TOWN IN LITTLE WAS CHINA THERE.... WHAT COULD THIS MEAN? *There was a Little man in China*

⑱ CLYDE THE CAMEL HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH X-MAS. TRUE ~~TRUE~~ FALSE *✓*

⑲ WOULD YOU LIKE ME TO VIDEO YOUR X-MAS PRESENTS LIKE

I did last year. Yes

⑳ NAME THREE MEDIUM X-MAS PRESENTS YOU MIGHT WANT.

① *Doodle Dome*

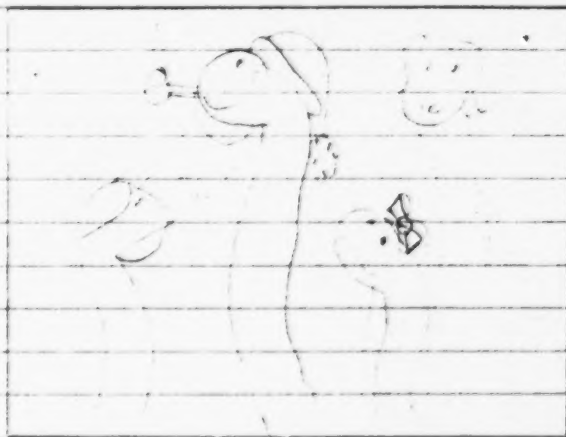
② *Game Boy - Light Boy + Magnifier*

③ *Video Games*

㉑ IS THERE A DISNEY MOVIE YOU DON'T HAVE THAT YOU WOULD LIKE?

Brat + Beast

- ②② Who Got Run over by A Reindeer? *Grandma*
- ②③ DRAW THE SNAKE FAMILY ON X-MAS DAY.



- ②④ If you could Give every person in the World A present
ON X-MAS, WHAT WOULD IT BE? *money, happiness*
- ②⑤ SANTA CLAUS' FAVORITE X-MAS IS the bestest *one of all.*
- ②⑥ Do you still like stuffed ANIMALS? *yes*
- ②⑦ NAME ALL the different Kinds of ANIMALS you have had
OR HAVE AS pets. *hamster, mouse, dog, solomons, dog, newt, fish, hedge, cat, ducks, goose, snake, tadpole, chicken*
- ②⑧ NAME three ANIMALS you have never had As pets that
you would like to have.
- ① *skunk*
 - ② *mink or ferret*
 - ③ *horse or cow*

27 10/1/20 'S X-MAS STORY

DICK WAS A 10 YEAR OLD GIRL WHO LIVED IN A small TOWN CALLED MINN. IT WAS ALMOST twelve O'CLOCK AT NIGHT WHEN SHE WAS WOKED UP BY A faint NOISE. IT SOUNDED LIKE SOMETHING WAS WALKING ON THE ROOF OF HER HOUSE. EVEN HER CAT MURDER WAS stirring AND jumped OFF THE BED. HER DOG Buddy WAS sitting IN THE large YARD. SHE jumped OUT OF BED AND dash'd TO THE WINDOW TO SEE WHAT WAS HAPPENING. BUT SHE COULDN'T SEE ANYTHING BECAUSE THE snow WAS FALLING SO thickly. BUT WHEN SHE WENT DOWN THE HALL SHE WAS able TO SEE A faint LIGHT COMING FROM THE KITCHEN. when she CREPT UP AND PEAKED IN CRACK OF THE DOOR. WHAT SHE SAW WAS SO strange she nearly fell. SURE ENOUGH IT WAS OLD Saint Nick HIMSELF, SITTING AT THE TABLE DRINKING SOME milk AND EATING A cookie. SHE RUBBED HER EYES AND LOOKED AGAIN, BUT HE WAS GONE. SHE THOUGHT MAYBE IT WAS JUST A weird DREAM. BUT ON HER WAY BACK TO HER ROOM, SHE NOTICED THE SCREEN ON THE FIREPLACE WAS in order AND THERE WAS coals ALL OVER THE carpet. BUT WHEN SHE ran INTO THE LIVING ROOM, SHE WAS delighted TO SEE toys AND gifts OF ALL KINDS OF up to date AROUND THE tree TREE. SHE ran BACK TO HER ROOM AND peered OUT THE WINDOW. IT WAS STILL TOO dark TO SEE OUT. BUT IN THE DISTANCE, SHE COULD HEAR jingle bells AND A faint VOICE CALLING OUT. Merry X-mas TO ALL AND TO ALL A goodnight.

30) AREN'T YOU GLAD ALL THE QUESTIONS AREN'T AS LONG AS
the LAST ONE? YES

31) NAME THREE SMALL THINGS YOU MIGHT WANT FOR X-MAS.

- ① a collection of books
- ② a new record player
- ③ a new television

32) DO YOU HOPE IT SNOWS ON X-MAS? YES ☒ NO ☐ DON'T CARE ☐

33) DO YOU HAVE ENOUGH HEATERS NOW TO KEEP YOUR HOUSE
WARM FOR THE WINTER? YES ☒ NO ☐ NOT SURE ☐

34) WHAT ARE THE NAMES OF ALL YOUR DUCKS THAT HAVE NAMES SO FAR?

- | | | |
|----------|----------|---|
| ① Marvyn | ⑦ Popsy | ⑬ |
| ② Mary | ⑧ Mollie | ⑭ |
| ③ Dick | ⑨ | ⑮ |
| ④ | ⑩ | ⑯ |
| ⑤ | ⑪ | ⑰ |
| ⑥ | ⑫ | ⑱ |

35) DRAW BUDDY THE SNOWMAN.



36 Do you think you get a tad old for the PINE TREE?

37 Which is the best X-MAS Dinner?

Turkey ☐

HAM ☒

Both ☐

Both ☒

38 Why does NOEL HAVE AN 'L' IN IT? I don't NOE

39 CAN YOU THINK OF A NEW YEARS RESOLUTION FOR 1993?

I won't eat as much food as I do now. - NOT

40 MIRACLE ON 31st STREET.

41 Which of your VIDEO GAMES Do you think you have played the Most? VIDEO MANIA 2 - at the

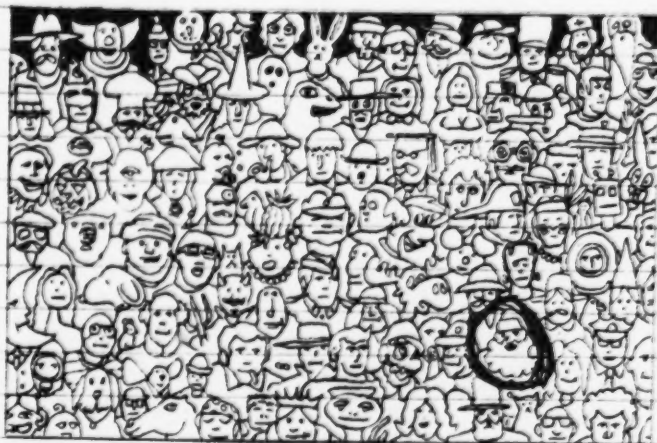
42 NAME three tiny things you MIGHT WAIT FOR X-MAS.

① 1. a gold

② 2. a car

③ 3. a trip home

43 Wheres SANTA? CIRCLE WITH COLOR MARKER.



QUESTIONS FROM DAD 131

44. NAME FIVE CARTOON CHARACTERS YOU FOUND WHILE Looking For SANTA.

- ① Batman
- ② Spiderman
- ③ Superman
- ④ Flash
- ⑤ Fred

45. NAME FIVE OTHER CHARACTERS YOU FOUND WHILE Looking For SANTA.

- ① Spock
- ② Batman
- ③ Frankenstein
- ④ E.T.
- ⑤ Superman

46. Which ARE NOT other NAMES FOR SANTA CLAUS.

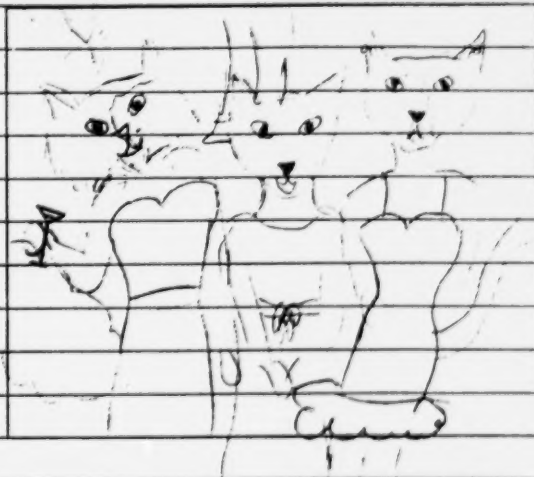
SANTA _____	OLD WHITE BEARD ☒
THE RED ZORRO ☒	SAINT NICHOLAS _____
THE FAT CHRISTMAS DUDE ☒	THE BAG MAN ☒
OLD SAINT NICK _____	FATHER CHRISTMAS ☒
THE CLAUSMEISTER ☒	THE CHIMNEY GUY ☒
KRISS KRINKLE _____	NICE BURGLAR ☒

47. Since there ARE CANDY CANES, why don't they have CANDY WHEEL CHAIRS? Because it gets way too sticky

48. If you had to GET SOME CLOTHES FOR X-MAS, WHAT WOULD BE THE LEAST HORRIBLE? SOCKS _____ SHOES _____ HAT _____ SHIRT _____ UNDERWEAR _____ COAT _____ GIRDLE _____ DRESS _____ SWEATER _____ JEANS _____ BATMAN CAPE ☒ OTHER _____



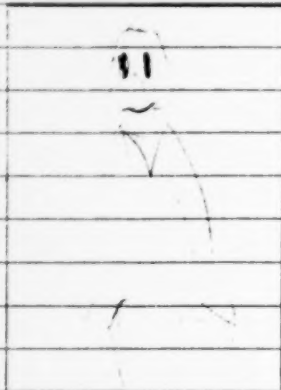
49 DRAW: MOW, CO-CO AND PRIN HAVING AN X-MAS PARTY.



← Prin likes
this picture
so much than
she's sitting on
it right now.

- 50 ARE YOU GLAD THIS TEST IS HALF OVER? *Yar*
- 51 NAME THREE MICROSCOPIC THINGS YOU MIGHT WANT FOR X-MAS
- ① a hair
 - ② a cany hair
 - ③ a million dollars
- 52 WHAT COULD YOU TELL CARRIE WHEN SHE'S IN BED ON X-MAS EVE
TO MAKE HER GO TO SLEEP? *CARRIE, now you really comfy*
- 53 WHAT WILL I TELL MOW WHEN SHE GETS HER PRESENT ON X-MAS DAY?
SSSSHE'S SUCH A good Kitty, SSSSHE'S SUCH A GOOD girl
- 54 WHICH OF DAD'S FRIENDS WILL SPEND X-MAS IN MALIBU? *Joe*
- 55 WHERE WERE WE WHEN CO-CO WAS BORN? *Disney Land*
- 56 WHO IS THE STAR OF HOME ALONE II? *McCauley Culkin*
- 57 IF ANNIE AND CARRIE, BUDDY AND TOBY WENT ON A X-MAS VACATION
WHERE WOULD THEY GO? *Pet World*

58) DRAN the GHOST OF CHRISTMAS PAST



59) How did the three KINGS find the baby JESUS? The star

60) WHO STOLE CHRISTMAS? The Grinch

61) I'M DREAMING OF A BLUE CHRISTMAS. TRUE FALSE ☒

62) NAME THREE INVISIBLE THINGS YOU MIGHT WANT FOR X-MAS.

① a mini tree

② a plastic duck set

③ a Mall full of TOYS

63) WHAT IS THE WORST THING YOU COULD FIND IN YOUR STOCKING
ON X-MAS MORNING? a lump of coal or a scorpion

64) WHAT DID DINOSAURS USE FOR X-MAS TREES? a Bristle horse

65) WHAT DO ASTRONAUTS GET FOR X-MAS?

(A) MISTLETOE

(B) PEACE OFF EARTH

(C) A GREAT VIEW of the NORTH POLE ☒

(D) OTHER Freeze Dried apple sauce

67. How does MRS CLAUS Get the dirt AND SOOT OUT of SANTA'S Suit the day AFTER X-MAS?

- (A) WITH YULE TIDE ☒
- (B) IVORY SNOW ☐
- (C) CHRISTMAS JOY ☐
- (D) OTHER ☐

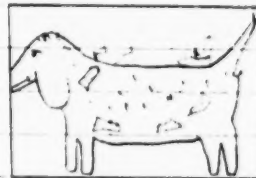
68. DRAW the following:


A FLEA



FLEA FAMILY AROUND
THE X-MAS TREE


A FLEA'S X-MAS
STOCKING



FLEA CHRISTMAS PARADE

69. What could RATINA Get MR RAT FOR X-MAS? A SWEATER

70. Who was the MASTER MIND BEHIND the INVENTION of ALUMINUM X-MAS TREES?

- (A) REYNOLDS WRAPNER ☐
- (B) AL LOUMANTREE ☐
- (C) JULIO MANGLES ☒

71. Do you think ELVIS is still ALIVE AND LIVES WITH SANTA AT THE NORTH POLE? ☒

72. NAME three thing you Would NEVER WANT FOR X-MAS.

- ① tree sandboard box full of feces
- ② finger nail clippers
- ③ dust

71. NAME THREE X-MAS SONGS YOUR DAD WROTE.

① Christmas love

②

③

72. TELL HOW WE WOULD SPEND THE DAY AND NIGHT IF CHRISTMAS, HALLOWEEN, THANKSGIVING, THE 4TH OF JULY AND EASTER WERE ALL ON THE SAME DAY.

"THE 4TH OF CHRISOWEEN THANKSEASTER DAY"

FIRST THING IN THE MORNING WE WOULD...

Throw open presents, carve the pumpkins, stuff the turkey & find the eggs.

[^]
simplified

73. WHERE DID YOU HAVE THANKSGIVING DINNER? *Mart's*

74. WHAT DID YOU HAVE? *ham*

75. HOW MANY DAYS UNTIL X-MAS? *20*

76. ARE YOU EXCITED YET? YES ☒ NO ☐ NOT YET ☐ KINDA ☐

77. CHECK ITEMS YOU MIGHT NOT WANT FOR X-MAS.

① BOOKS

⑦ JEWELERY

② LUNCH MEAT ☒

⑧ LIQUID PLUMBER ☒

③ PUZZLES

⑨ MORE DUCKS ☒

④ CHEWING TOBACCO ☒

⑩ WEED WACKER ☒

⑤ G.I. JOE ☒

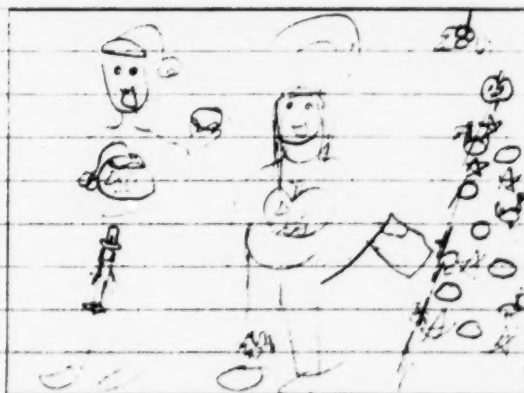
⑪ BOARD GAMES

⑥ FOOTBALL HELMET ☒

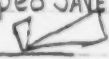
⑫ AERO WIG

- every year
DAD

78. DRAW YOU AND I HAVING A
4th OF CHRISTMAS THANKSEASTER DAY PARTY.



79. is there another one of your TRADING CARDS you would like the full set of? *ADD-EM etc.*
80. List the things you collect. *books, pens, pencils, pens, pencils, pets, ducks, geese, ducks etc.*
81. What could I do to keep from being sad since you can't be here for X-MAS? *eat chocolate wassam*
82. If it snowed over the holidays, would you build a snowman?
YES ☒ NO ☐ MAYBE ☐ SNOWDUCK ☒ SNOWSNAKE ☐
83. HAVE you ever built a snowman? *Yes*

34. Have you ever MADE X-MAS cookies? Yes
 35. Have you ever MADE FISH ICE CREAM? NEVER
 36. Does it Sound like I'M RUNNING OUT of X-MAS QUESTIONS? No
 X 37. WHAT would be A good IDEA For A Movie For us to
 MAKE THIS Summer? Another Mr. Rat
 (your X-present hint)
 38. Since you Couldn't Come out For X-MAS, Do you think
 MAYBE you Might like A little longer VISIT this
 SUMMER, SAY THREE OR FOUR WEEKS? Maybe
 39. Do you think 100 QUESTIONS ARE Too MANY? NA
 40. Complete the list of Ten things you would NEVER
 WANT to find under YOUR TREE on X-MAS MORNING.
 ① LIVE RATTLE SNAKE
 ② LAST YEARS X-MAS presents
 ③ twenty Gallons of COLESLAW
 ④ DRACULA'S COFFIN
 ⑤ A BLAZING FIRE
 ⑥ A deadfrog
 ⑦ rottenapple
 ⑧ A DEAD SANTA
 ⑨ A broken christmas ornament
 ⑩ NOTHING!!!
 41. If I COULD LOOK IN SANTA'S BOOK UNDER Dion Twilley IN 1992 it
 would say, she WAS MEAN AND BEAT up her ducks _____
 she was OK, but didn't try HARD At school _____ she WAS Good
 but let her FISH DIE _____ she WAS Just GREAT _____
 she WAS perfect in everyway! _____ she helped SAVE Co-Co's
 Life, her DAD should Send her Tons of Presents 

③ DRAWING FOLLOWING



MOTHER, FATHER & BABY ELF



GRANDPA ELF



ELF FLEA



③④ ARE YOU GOING TO LIVE YOUR PRESENTS UP IN ORDER OF THEIR
size? ✓ If yes, which will you open first? 8

... THE BIGGEST _____ THE SMALLEST ✓

③⑤ Do you think there is ANY chance that ONE of the presents your DAD
SENDS you WILL BE WEIRD? Definitely NOT! - Not!

③⑥ ARE YOU GLAD THIS TEST IS ALMOST DONE? nah

③⑦ What do you Get AN OCTOPUS FOR X-MAS? ? I don't understand the question

③⑧ When I look in your eyes it's A perfect World, Calvin K - ty
AND A BEAUTIFUL GIRL.

③⑨ BESIDES PRESENTS, WHAT IS REALLY the best thing About X-MAS?
Besides Presents!?!?

③⑩ WHO LOVE, LOVE, LOVE, LOVE, LOVE, LOVE, LOVE, LOVE, LOVE,
LOVE, LOVE, LOVE, LOVE, LOVE, LOVE, LOVES YOU? DAD

100 QUESTIONS FROM DAD 1993

It's hard to be objective, but it seems like the tests are improving with age. "Super Flea" and "The Singing Fish Head" are, for my money, top notch illustrations. The complete-the-blank-story, "*The Big Green Rat From Outer Space With Christmas Lights On Its Tail*," is an undeniable literary milestone.

This test also includes my first, and hopefully, last attempt at a crossword puzzle, and a somewhat successful diagram of "*A Day In The Life Of My Daughter At School*."

Dion and I are aspiring to be the Lennon and McCartney of "Dad Testing."

QUESTIONS, QUIRKS AND COMMENTS

QUESTION 19 I didn't really know what would happen when I asked, "*What could squirmeyblobin mean?*" My scholarly daughter's learned response was "*SQUIRMEYBLOBIN (noun) 1. The act of having an unlawful squirmey blob in your house.*" I didn't know that!

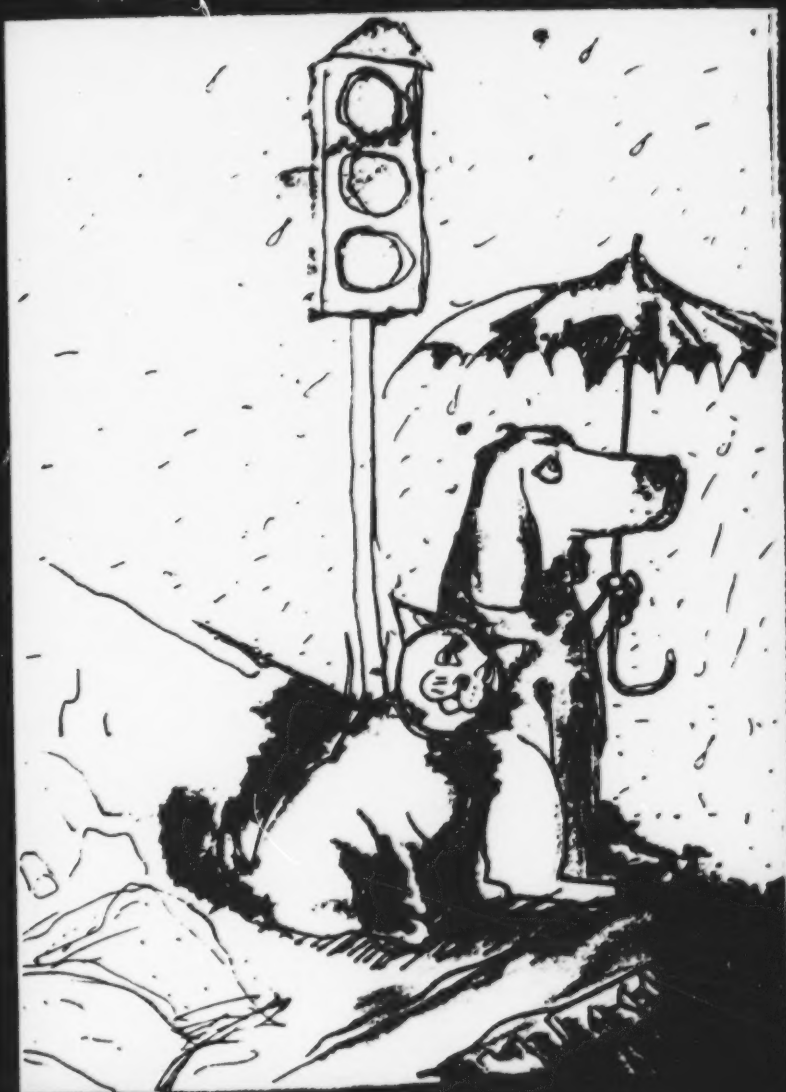
QUESTION 24 *"Name something your Dad loves that you hate."* Her answer: *"Cigarettes."* Ouch! I guess she busted me there.

QUESTION 25 I was surprised that when I asked her to *"name something your dad hates that you love,"* she answered, *"Arkansas."* I'll have to let her know that the only thing I hate about Arkansas is the distance it puts between us!

QUESTION 30 *"At what age do you think you'll be too old for the Dad's Test?"* Her answer: *"2 1/4, give or take a year."* After all the time I have invested in the Dad's Tests, this one answer alone makes it all worthwhile! Perhaps these questionnaires will, in fact, weather the teenage years, or even a lifetime.

QUESTION 61 With her answer, my daughter lets me know that homework is not really necessary for her. I'm not sure how serious she is, and I suppose that this is an issue to be concerned about. But since Dion consistently earns straight "A's," I figure, why rock the boat by pursuing the matter? Something tells me she might be sneaking in a tiny bit of homework between video games.

100 QUESTIONS



FROM DAD 93

QUESTIONS FROM DAD 143

① NAME YOUR THREE FAVORITE BIG THINGS YOU GOT FOR X-MAS.

- ① Keyboard
- ② My horses (not real)
- ③ camera

② ARE YOU GLAD TOBY IS HOME? yes

③ WHAT DID HE LOOK LIKE WHEN HE RETURNED? Not exactly a Toby form ah...

④ WHAT DO YOU THINK HE WAS DOING? Gungt'o a health clinic

⑤ NAME YOUR THREE FAVORITE MEDIUM THINGS YOU GOT FOR X-MAS

- ① Jaboo
- ② cards
- ③ Waynes World pin

⑥ DID YOU HAVE FUN IN LITTLE ROCK? yes

⑦ WHAT WAS THE MOST NOTABLE THING YOU DID THERE? drive

⑧ DRAW TOBY AFTER RETURNING FROM HIS ADVENTURE.



- ⑨ Did you like my X-MAS VIDEO? yes
- ⑩ When ARE you Sending ME Your X-MAS VIDEO? soon
- ⑪ WHAT WAS your FAVORITE thing in MY X-MAS VIDEO? The many x-mas greetings?
- ⑫ How WILL We explain to people WHAT BABY SNAKES ARE ?

⑬ And if You Wonder What the story is here it is here it is here it is

⑭ MARK the things you're pretty Sure you would Never WANT To Do For A LIVING.

Tow Truck driver ☒	BANK Robber ☒
BANKER ☐	ACTRESS ☐
MORTICIAN ☒	ARTIST ☐
LAWYER ☐	WRITER ☐
VETERINARIAN ☐	MECHANIC ☒
NURSE ☒	PLUMBER ☒
SINGER ☐	Cop ☒
DOCTOR ☐	President ☐
Scientist ☐	ASTRONAUT ☐
Chef ☒	TRASH Collector ☒
HAIRDRESSER ☒	PSYCHIC ☐
Housewife ☐	Dentist ☒

⑮ Did I Leave Anything Out? some remandilist

⑥ NAME YOUR THREE FAVORITE SMALL THINGS YOU GOT FOR X-MAS

① little iron horse

② fire siphant

③ Snow white + the seven dwarfs

⑦ HOW MANY DAYS UNTIL X-MAS? about - 24 265 maybe?

⑧ DRAW THE FOLLOWING



BUD



PRIN



CO-CO



MCW



MOHAWK



MR. RAT



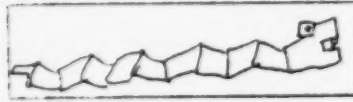
CARRIE



SINGING FISH HEAD



SUPER FLEA



ROBOT SNAKE

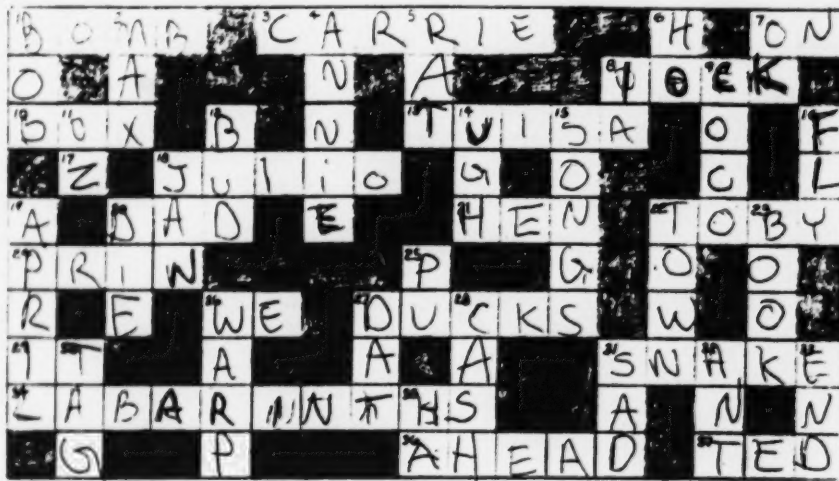


LINK

⑨ WHAT COULD SQUIRMEYBLOBIN MEAN? Squirrely blobin -
 the act of having an unpleasant squiggly blob
 in your home.

- ②0 What is the Best thing About your DAD? *He's weird & funny*
- ②1 What is the Best thing About you? *Tom would be funny*
- ②2 What is the Worst thing about your Dad? *He's weird & funny*
- ②3 What is the Worst thing about you? *Sam would be funny*
- ②4 NAME Something Your DAD Loves that you Hate. *cigarettes*
- ②5 NAME Something you Love that Your DAD Hates. *Arkansas?*
- ②6 NAME Something WE Both Love. *Animals*
- ②7 NAME Something WE Both HATE. *Leeches*
- ②8 What is OUR FAVORITE PLACE to Go? *Disneyland*
- ②9 What is OUR FAVORITE PLACE NOT to Go? *in a cardboard box.*
- ③0 At what AGE Do you think You'll be Too OLD FOR the DAD'S TESTS? *204 given take a year*
- ③1 At what AGE Will I be too OLD to SEND them? *204 given take a year*
- ③2 Do ANY of Your FRIENDS Also have DADS that live FAR AWAY? *I don't think so but Kristy Jackson's dad lives in Bryant, Ark.*

33 DADS EXCELLENT CROSSWORD PUZZLE ... NOT :



ACROSS

- 1 ATOMIC _____
- 3 SHE'S REALLY COMFY
- 7 IT'S NOT OFF
- 8 _____ THE DOOR
- 10 LITTEK _____
- 13 YOU WERE BORN THERE
- 17 THE MARK OF ZORRO
- 18 _____ MANGLES
- 20 HE LOVE LOVE LOVES YOU
- 21 A FEMALE BIRD
- 22 ARMADILLO HUNTER
- 24 A TORTOISE SHELL KITTY
- 26 THIRD WORD IN QUESTION (66)
- 27 YOU HAVE TOO MANY
- 29 _____ CAME FROM OUTER SPACE
- 31 BABY _____
- 34 THE TRIFORCES CAN ONLY BE FOUND IN THE
- 36 FULL SPEED _____
- 37 BILL AND _____

DOWN

- 1 WHAT ABOUT _____
- 2 THIS DOG HAS NO LEGS
- 4 SHE LIVES IN DOGGIE HEVEN
- 5 GOES OUT FOR A PIZZA
- 6 SANTA SAYS THIS TWICE
- 9 MOW'S BABY
- 11 WHERE TO FIND THE WIZARD
- 12 HE FOLLOWS TOBY
- 14 IN THE MOVIES INDIANS SAY IT (NOT)
- 15 DAD WRITES THEM
- 16 THE SPIDER AND THE _____
- 19 A GOOD MIDDLE NAME
- 23 CHINA _____
- 25 THIS TEST COULD END UP IN A _____
- 26 PEOPLE SAY THIS WHEN A SKUNK'S AROUND
- 28 HELPS MARIO GET TO ANOTHER WORLD
- 29 OUR INITIALS
- 30 THE BEST KIND OF MONEY
- 31 NOT HAPPY
- 32 A BUG THAT COMES TO YOUR PICNIC
- 33 YOUR NEAR THE _____ OF THIS PUZZLE
- 35 YOU MIGHT SAY THIS WHEN YOU HEAR A JOKE
- 36 YOUR GLAD TOBY WEARS ONE
- 18 SHE SENT YOU A CAMERA
- 20 WHAT YOUR FISH DO
- 7 SHORT FOR OKLAHOMA
- 8 WHERE DAD LIVES

oops, left these out

- 34) If you had Plenty of food But you were left ~~alone~~ ^{alone} ALONE AT YOUR House For A Week it would be
- (A) OK _____
 - (B) A little SCARY _____
 - (C) NIGHT OF THE LIVING DEAD _____
 - (D) PARTY TIME ✓
- 35) If you had Plenty of Money But you were left Completely ALONE AT the Disney AND HOTEL For A Week it would be
- (A) OK _____
 - (B) A little SCARY _____
 - (C) TWILLIGHT ZONE _____
 - (D) PARTY TIME ✓
- 36) If you had Plenty of RAID But you were left Completely ALONE AT the Bottom of A DARK CAVE With Thousands of Black Widow Spiders For A Week it would be
- (A) Interesting _____
 - (B) A tad unsettling _____
 - (C) AHHHHHH ✓
 - (D) PARTY TIME _____
- 37) What is the Scariest thing you CAN Think of?
Walking down a dark Alley at 12:00am N.Y.
- 38) What is the Most Fun thing you could imagine?
Going on a wild animal safari and seeing wild animals

④ DRAW YOUR ANSWER TO ③⑦



④⑩ Do you READ the Newspaper?

① NEVER _____

② SOMETIMES ☒

③ EVERY DAY _____

④⑪ What is your FAVORITE MAGAZINE? *Seventeen*

④⑫ ONE FROZEN DUCK CAN RUIN YOUR WHOLE DAY. TRUE ☒ FALSE _____

④⑬ DAD SHOULD STICK TO SONGWRITING AND FORGET CROSSWORD PUZZLES.
TRUE _____ FALSE ☒

④⑭ You WANT to change your HAIR to look like Chelsea Clinton.

TRUE _____ FALSE ☒

④⑮ TOBY WANTS to change his HAIR to look like Chelsea Clinton.

TRUE _____ FALSE ☒

④⑯ PRIN WANTS to change her HAIR to look like SOCKS.

TRUE _____ FALSE ☒

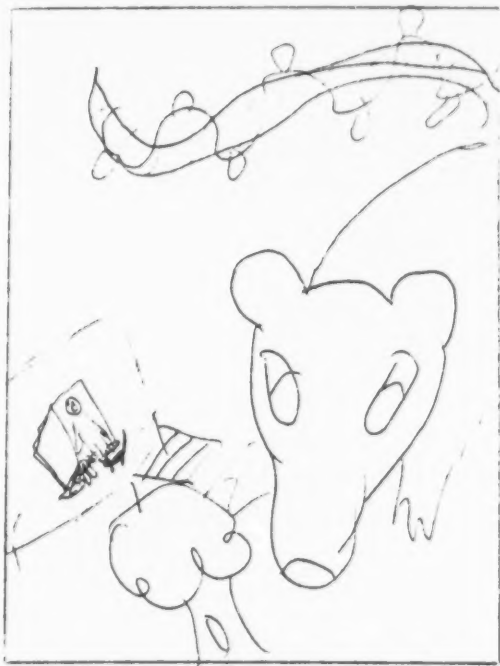
- 47) Do you know much about computers? Not really
- 48) Would you like one? Yes
- 49) What is the strangest sound your ears hear? haircut
laser beam
- 50) Are you sure it's not a cat? Not

51) Once there was a hairy man who lived with his bald headed dog named Harry and his cross-eyed cat, Bongo. His small house was about 20 miles from the small town of Baldmalt. One dark night just after finishing a full plate of ham and cheese and a little log of lamb for dessert, he was disturbed by Harry barking at something out the open window. Even Bongo woke up from a cat nap and started to make a scared sounding meow. He slowly went outside to see what was the matter. Holy fingersail! He couldn't believe what he saw. There in the sky just above him was a huge Rat with red and green lights and a strange chittering sound. Bongo and Harry were so scared they both ran back into the house and hid under the Bed. Suddenly it appeared that

the Rat WAS GOING TO RAM RIGHT INTO
 the OLD Car Tree IN his front YARD. AND
 THEN BOM! THERE WAS A GIANT EXPLOSION
 WITH cloudy SMOKE AND orange FLAMES.
Nancy AND Bob SLOWLY crept OUT OF THE
 HOUSE AND ALL scared INTO THE SMOKING mass
 TO SEE IF ANYTHING WAS LEFT. SURE ENOUGH, THERE
 IT WAS, A REAL Rat ABOUT THE SIZE OF A
Blue Whale IN THEIR OWN YARD. THEY WERE
 SO scared they WERE frozen. THE NEXT
 DAY, ALL THE PEOPLE FROM THE TOWN OF Baldern
 CAME TO SEE THE CRASH SITE. AS A RESULT
Bob BECAME SO rich AND FAMOUS
 HE WAS ABLE TO BUY A NICE TOUPEE FOR Nancy
 AND SPECIAL GLASSES FOR Bongo. IT WAS
 TRULY A interesting experience. BUT THEY
 ALL LIVED happily ever after.

- 52) WHAT COULD BE A NAME FOR THIS STORY? The big green rat from outer space with Christmas lights on its tail
 52) COULD WE MAKE A MOVIE OF THIS STORY? sure
 53) QUESTION 51 WAS ... HARD _____ EASY _____ FUN ✓
 : TORTURE _____

- 54 If OUR story (QUESTION 51) BECAME A BOOK, DRAW WHAT THE COVER WOULD LOOK LIKE.



- 55 HAVE YOU EVER PLAYED A VIDEO GAME CALLED JOURNEY TO SILIUS? *no*
- 56 HOW FAR HAVE YOU GOT WITH ZELDA? *not very far - not even to the 2nd labyrinth*

③ How far can you get in Mario II? What would you do

④ Could you show me what your schedule at school is like?

(Example)

English ☒ 8:00 AM TIL 9:00 AM

☒ Science 10:00 AM TIL 11:00 AM

Lunch 11:00 AM TIL 12:00 PM

(About)
1 P.E. 8:15 - 9:00

☒ Geography 9:10 - 10:00
☒ Math 10:00 - 11:00

☒ English 11 - 12:00

☒ Life Science 1:00 - 2:00

1 Math 2:30 - 3:00

☒ Language Arts (typing) 2:45 - 3:15

I have
no
idea

⑤ Put a star by Your Favorite Subjects.

⑥ Put a X after Subjects you don't like.

⑦ About How Much Homework Do you usually have on

SCHOOL NIGHTS? $\frac{1}{2}$ Hour ____ Hour ____ Hour AND $\frac{1}{2}$ ____

Never Do Any ☒ Work All Night TIL DAWN ____

⑧ Can Ducks Survive with No Water to Swim In? Yes
but they'll get sick a lot

63 COMPLETE THE DRAWING:



64 Did you Notice that there were two Questions Number 52 No

65 What does this Mean? ~~2000000000~~

A This Question Should be 66 ✓

B This Test Should be Called 101 Questions From DAD ✓

C DAD CAN'T COUNT To 100 ✓

D DAD Really Likes the Number 52 ✓

E DAD IS LOSING his MIND ✓

F ALL OF THE ABOVE ✓

66 How MANY VIDEO GAMES Do you have? 11 Nintendo 5 Gameboy

67 How MANY DISNEY MOVIES Do you have? 4

68 What Does Your Room look like?

(A) NEAT AND CLEAN _____

(B) NOT TOO BAD _____

(C) DISASTER AREA ☒

69 Do you Think I should

(A) GROW A MUSTACHE _____

(B) GROW A BEARD _____

(C) STAY the SAME ☒

70 Which three Questions in this Test did You like the Best?

(19) Draw the following

(11) What ~~the~~ squirrel/baboon mean?

(32) Excellent Crossword

71 Check Which things you do pretty Regularly to help
Your Mom Around the house

(A) WASH DISHES _____

(B) VACUUM _____

(C) SET RAT TRAPS _____

(D) COOK _____

(E) TAKE OUT TRASH _____

(F) BRING IN TRASH _____

(G) FEED PETS ☒

(H) CHOP DOWN TREES
FOR FIREWOOD _____

(I) DUST _____

(J) CHANGE FLAT TIRES _____

(K) DO LAUNDRY _____

(L) PICK COTTON _____

(M) SLOP THE HOGS _____

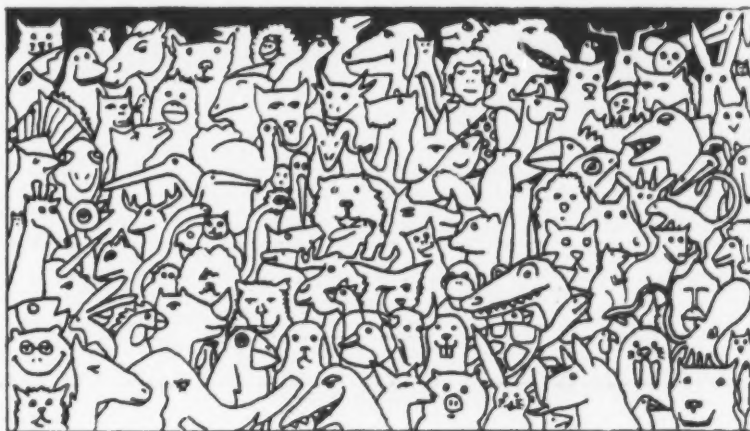
(N) SET TABLE _____

(O) MAKE BEDS _____

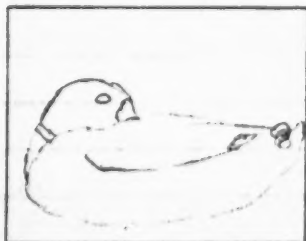
(P) LAY IN BED ☒

(Q) CREATE EXOTIC FLOWER
ARRANGEMENTS _____

72 where's MALLARD?



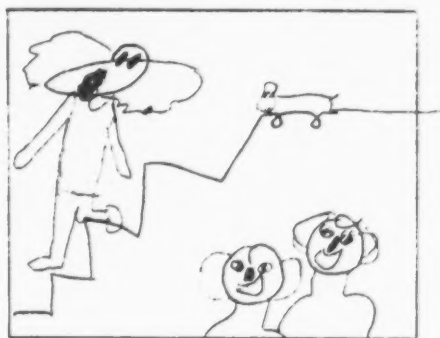
- 73 WHAT ANIMAL IS HARD TO DRAW? *human, frog, mouse*
74 WHAT ANIMAL IS EASY TO DRAW? *duck, horse, dog*
75 DRAW the ANIMAL you think you do best.



Sitting Duck

QUESTIONS FROM DAD 157

- 76 Who is the funniest CARTOON CHARACTER? *Garfield*
- 77 Do you have ANY PLANS FOR the 4th of CHRISOWEEN THANKSEASTER DAY?
- (A) SAME AS EVERY YEAR _____
- (B) SAVED LAST YEARS eggs FOR under Tree _____
- (C) NOT BUYING FIREWORKS FOR the turkey this year _____
- (D) TRYING NEW STUFFING FOR the PUMPKIN _____
- (E) *Hiding green pumpkins this year* ✓
- 78 COMPLETE THE SQUIGGLE:



- 79 SIGN YOUR AUTOGRAPH

Dianne Swilley...

- 80 Do you think you would ever WANT TO JOIN, the ARMY _____
- NAVY _____ AIR FORCE _____ BOY SCOUTS _____
- no*

81. DRAW the CO-CO-STEIN MONSTER:



82. CHECK THINGS YOU PLAN TO DO THIS SUMMER:

A Go SWIMMING ☒

B Get TATOO of SNAKE ON YOUR FOREHEAD _____

C Visit DAD ☒

D Go to Disneyland ☒

E Study HEAD HUNTING _____

F MAKE ARMADILLO CLOTHES _____

G Take Pets on WALKS ☒

H Get your Nose Pierced _____

83. Do you think perhaps you MIGHT look NICE with your head shaved as well? *Oh like I did it's just not me.*

84. DRAW You with head shaved AND stylish TATOO AND NOSE RING:



- 85) If you found a MAGIC LANTERN AND A GENIE APPEARED AND OFFERED YOU ONLY THREE WISHES, WHAT WOULD THEY BE?

1. Superheroism
2. Better Economy
3. Lots of money!

- 86) Which would be Good New Holidays?

1. NATIONAL NINTENDO DAY ☒
2. JULIO MANGLES DAY ☒
3. TOILET CLEANING DAY _____
4. HOT DOG DAY _____
5. SLUG DAY _____

- 87) When the TERMINATOR COMES to your door you should

A. OFFER HIM COMPUTER CHIPS AND Dip _____
B. KICK him in the Robutt _____
C. DRINK YOUR MAGIC FORMULA BECAUSE you SENSE there MAY BE Trouble ☒

- 88) What is your FAVORITE SCARY MOVIE? *Shining & Think*

- 89) ARE YOU IN ANY CLUBS AT SCHOOL? *Pepclub, Quiz Bowl*

- 90) Do you THINK people WILL EVER stop HAVING WARS? *Not really*

- 91) MAYBE they COULD have BIG PICNICS INSTEAD True ☒ False _____

- 92) CAN you Believe this Test is ALMOST OVER? YES _____ No ☒

NO LONGER CAPABLE OF THINKING _____

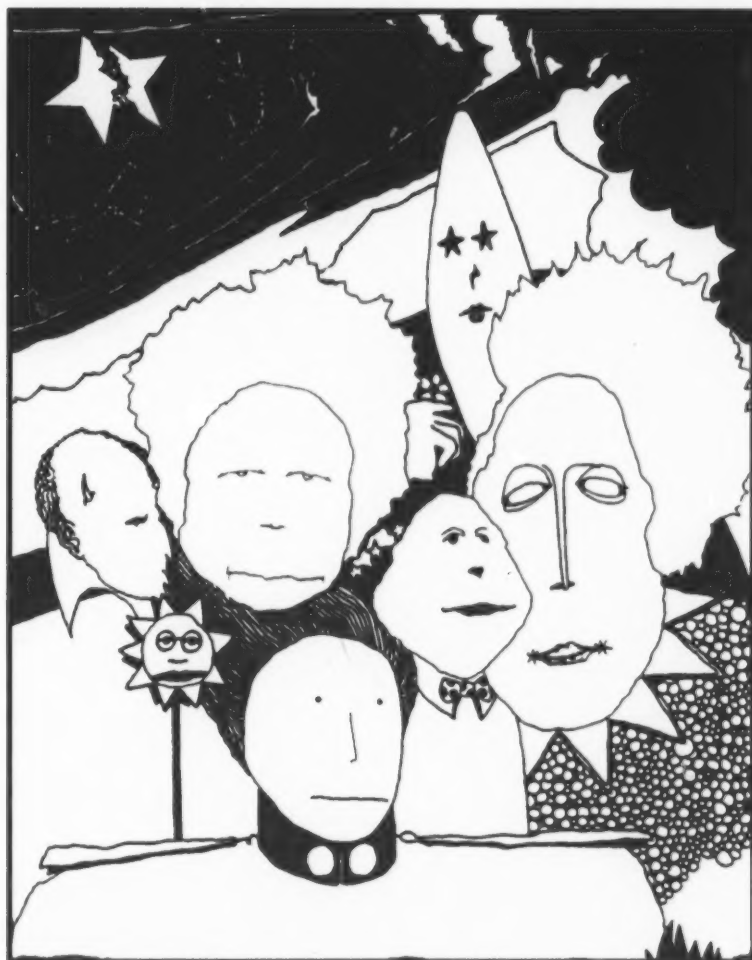
- 93 Do you have Any New Photos to SEND ME? *Yes*
 94 Should I let MOW TEACH CO-CO to Type? *Teacher has to read*
 95 Did you SAY A PRAYER FOR ANNIE? *just yes*
 96 Did you SAY A PRAYER FOR TOBY To COME HOME? *Yes*
 97 Did you SAY A PRAYER FOR this Test to finally END? *yes*
 98 Do You Have ANY New ducks this Week? *no just 18 eggs*
 99 What Word Has three letters Is spelt the SAME FORWARD
 OR BACKWARD AND is A person who Love, Love, LOVES you?

DAD

- 100 DRAW the OUTLINE OF YOUR LEFT HAND:



DAD AND DIONNE'S ART GALLERY



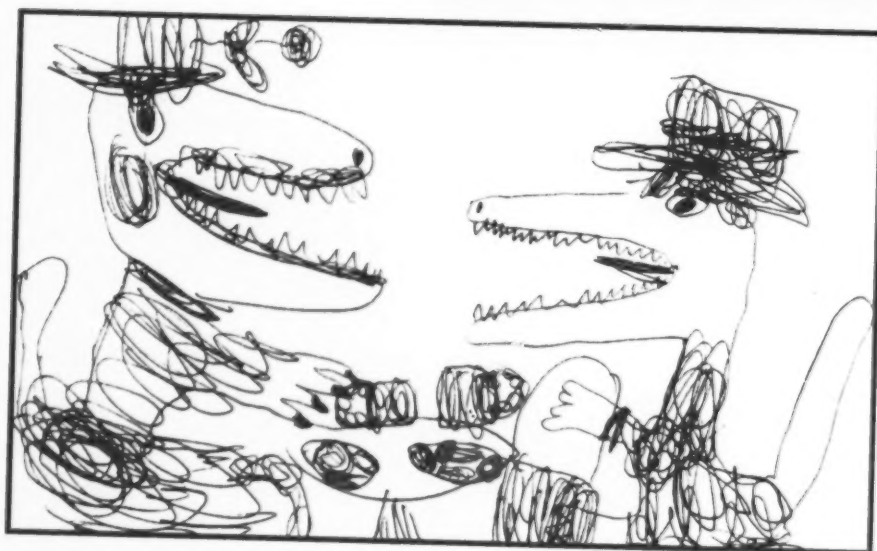
"Old Friends,"
by Dwight

QUESTIONS FROM DAD 163

"Duck in Sunday Best,"
by Dionne



"Dinos Dining,"
by Dionne

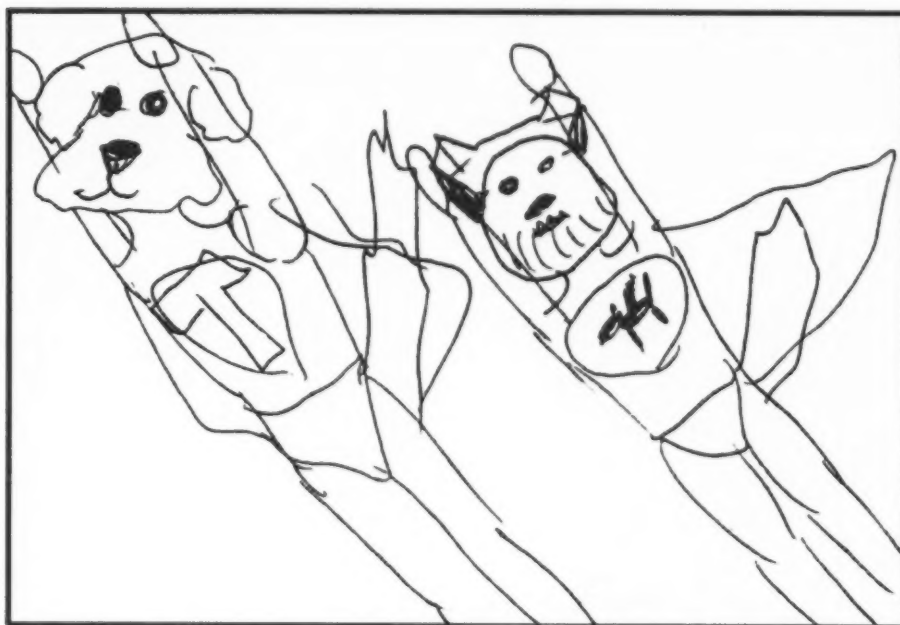




"He's Not From My Side of the Family,"
by Dwight

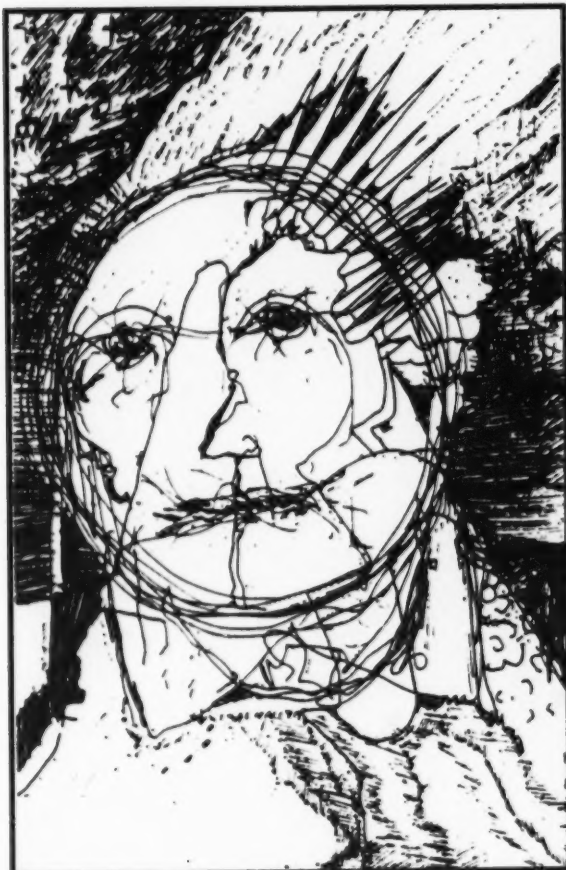


"Super Toby and Bat Bud,"
by Dionne



QUESTIONS FROM DAD 165

"Stone Face," by Dwight



◀.....
"Mickey Mouse,"
by Dionne

AN OPEN LETTER TO OTHER DADS

Dear Dads,

I hope that you have as much fun and success with your Dad's Test as I have.

As I near completion of this book, I am pleased to report that things are going well for Dion and me today. Dion is happy living with her mom in Arkansas, and I like the idea of her growing up where concrete obstacles don't block her view of the sky. As for me, I think that the old man upstairs has taken more than good care! Dion and I see each other as much as possible; we yak on the phone and exchange some letters. But the "Dad's Tests" are still our most "dad-daughterly" means of conversation.

I'm sure that, during the course of receiving the completed tests from your child, you will find answers and artwork that are sometimes profound, heartwarming or hilarious.

I would greatly appreciate your sending me copies of some of your favorite tests, answers or artwork—especially those which defy description!

I would also be very interested in your comments, tips or any new techniques that you have found to be successful. Please feel free to write me in care of my publisher.

I am eagerly looking forward to your correspondences!

Sincerely,

DWIGHT TWILLEY

“
The Dad's Tests
are still the most
dad-daughterly
means of
conversation.

”

FRIENDS AND SYMPATHETIC EARS

Contact these organizations for information or complete lists of state and local chapters and affiliates. Many organizations distribute monthly or quarterly newsletters containing a great deal of useful information. Computer users with modems can access information directly from the National Congress of Men and Children's Bulletin Board (BBS) (602) 840-4752 or (913) 432-1163.

CHILDREN'S RIGHTS COUNCIL
220 "I" Street, NE #230
Washington, D.C. 20002-4362
(202) 547-6227

FATHERS FOR EQUAL RIGHTS, INC.
3623 Douglas Avenue
Des Moines, IA 50310-5345
(515) 277-8789

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR MARRIAGE AND
FAMILY THERAPY
1100 Seventeenth Street, NE 10th Floor
Washington D.C. 20036
(202) 452-0109

CHILD WELFARE LEAGUE OF AMERICA
440 First Street, NW #310
Washington, D.C. 20001-2085
(202) 638-2952

NATIONAL CONGRESS OF MEN AND CHILDREN
2020 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW #277
Washington, D.C. 20006
(800) 773-DADS

MOTHERS WITHOUT CUSTODY
P.O. Box 27418
Houston, TX 77227-7418
(800) 457-MWOC

ACADEMY OF FAMILY MEDIATORS
1500 South Highway 100, #355
Golden Valley, MN 55416
(612) 525-8670

COALITION FOR AMERICA'S CHILDREN
1634 "I" Street, NW 12th Floor
Washington, D.C. 20006
(202) 638-5770

NATIONAL COALITION OF FREE MEN
P.O. Box 129
Manhasset, NY 11030
(516) 482-6378

FAMILY RESOURCE COALITION
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Chicago, IL 60604
(312) 341-0900

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF STATE VOCAL
ORGANIZATIONS
P.O. Box 621314
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NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR RESPONSIBLE
FATHERHOOD AND FAMILY DEVELOPMENT
8555 Hough Avenue
Cleveland, OH 44106
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(402) 477-7837

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137 Larkin Street
Madison, WI 53705
(608) 238-8751

PARENTS WITHOUT PARTNERS, INTERNATIONAL
401 North Michigan Avenue
Chicago, IL 60611-4267
(312) 644-6610

ABOUT THE AUTHOR



Photo by Robert Knight

Dwight Twilley is a writer and rock music artist of international repute. Best known for his hits "I'm on Fire" and "Girls," he has released numerous albums on the Shelter, Arista, EMI and DCC record labels.

A native of Tulsa, Oklahoma, Dwight began painting and writing poetry at a young age. His musical career began at age fifteen, when he found his brother's abandoned guitar in a closet: Dwight was enthralled to find that his words and images could take on new meaning by being fused with melodies.

In 1974, Dwight met drummer and singer Phil Seymour, and together they formed the Dwight Twilley Band. After being signed by Shelter Records, the first song they recorded, "I'm On Fire," was an instant smash. The band's debut album, *Sincerely*, was named "Debut Album of the Year" by *Rolling Stone* magazine.

During the eighties, Dwight and his band toured the world with Jefferson Starship, The Edgar Winter Group, and Greg Kihn. He performed at the 1984 summer Olympics and played for the troops of Desert Storm on the aircraft carrier USS Ranger in 1991. He has been a presenter at the American Music Awards, and had his own hour-long special on MTV. His music has been featured in such films as *Heavenly Bodies*, *Up the Academy*, *Just One of the Guys*, *Worth Winning*, *Ladybugs*, and *Wayne's World*.

Dwight has never lost his interest in the visual arts, and in 1982 his original works were exhibited in a one-man show at the Museum of Rock Art in Los Angeles. His artistic and literary endeavors have come full circle in the questionnaires he creates for his daughter Dionne. Through them, Dwight reveals the full range of his powers of self-expression.

QUESTIONS FROM DAD 171

"*Questions from Dad* is truly outstanding. Dwight's method is a very effective way to develop better relationships between children and their parents . . . The drawings are terrific!"

David L. Levy, Esq., National President
Children's Rights Council, Washington, D.C.

"Whether the separation be due to a break in the family unit, traveling for business, being in the armed forces, or in prison, *Questions from Dad* shows absent parents how they can stay in touch with their children."

Michael Bowers, M.A., Executive Director
American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy, Washington, D.C.

"Parents who see their children daily could learn a lot about parenting through this book as well!"

Travis Ballard, Esq., President
National Congress for Men and Children, Washington, D.C.

"*Questions from Dad* can help turn shallow conversations and awkward silences into productive discussions between parents and children."

Dick Woods, Director
Fathers For Equal Rights, Inc., Des Moines, Iowa

"An innovative approach to encouraging a long distance parent-child relationship."

Jennifer Isham, National President
Mothers Without Custody, Houston, Texas

"*Questions from Dad* is a metaphor for love from dad."

Warren Farrell, Ph.D., Author
The Myth of Male Power and *Why Men Are The Way They Are*

"This book helps break the emotional stereotype that men don't talk."

Bill Harrington, National Director and President
American Fathers Coalition, Tacoma, Washington

"Perhaps the greatest endorsement comes from my six year old daughter, who often climbs up in my lap and asks me to read Mr. Twilley's questionnaires to her."

Charles A. Ballard, Founder/President
National Institute for Responsible Fatherhood & Family Development, Cleveland, Ohio

As one of the millions of long-distance dads in this country, Dwight Twilley successfully found a way to establish a more meaningful relationship with his only daughter and bridge the gap between them. Remembering a fun "test" given to him by a second grade teacher, he began to compose a test of personal questions for his daughter. Within days after sending it, it was returned completed with the comment, "Send More!" Twilley now shares in detail his ingenious new method that may forever change the way that parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles—or anyone—will communicate with kids.

Dr. Susan Forward is an internationally renowned psychotherapist whose best-selling titles include *Obsessive Love: When It Hurts Too Much To Let Go*, *Men Who Hate Women & the Women Who Love Them*, and *Betrayal of Innocence: Incest & Its Devastation*. She is the mother of two children and maintains a practice in California.

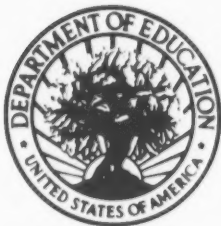
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